



No 3,641

THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 19 JUNE 1998

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Dominic Cork
swings into action

NINE PAGES OF SPORT

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

A good
chair day

NEW DESIGN SECTION

Small, blonde
and Hanson

FIVE PAGES OF MUSIC AND ARTS

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Ban for
baby
death
doctorsBy JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THREE DOCTORS involved in the Bristol heart surgery case were found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday at the end of the longest and most controversial disciplinary hearing in British medical history.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, responded to the General Medical Council's verdict by announcing a public inquiry into what has become known as the Bristol cardiac disaster. Of 53 cases investigated by the GMC, 29 children died and four were left brain damaged after operations between 1988 and 1995.

James Wisheart, 60, a senior surgeon and former medical director of the Bristol Royal Infirmary and John Roylance, former chief executive, were struck off the medical register and Janardan Dhasmana, Mr Wisheart's junior colleague, was restricted to operating on adults for three years, after the council's professional conduct committee found they had failed to protect children undergoing surgery for heart defects from unacceptably high risks.

The decision to allow Mr Dhasmana to continue working outraged parents who packed the public gallery to hear Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC, deliver the verdicts. One shouted "murderer" and another accused the GMC of "protecting working doctors". Mr Wisheart and Dr Roylance are retired and their pensions will be unaffected by the GMC's decision.

Outside there were scuffles as two parents lunged at Mr Dhasmana.

Mr Dobson told the Commons that the inquiry, to be chaired by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical ethics at University College, London, would "cover all aspects of what went

wrong at Bristol". He said he hoped the parents of the children concerned "would gain at least some small consolation from the knowledge that the lessons learnt from what their children had suffered should mean that nothing like it ever happens again".

The GMC's verdict strikes at the heart of the medical establishment. In its judgement, the council said the three doctors were "caring and dedicated" and had given long service to the NHS which had made the need for the inquiry "all the more tragic". In addition to the doctors' individual failings, the council identified "institutional failures at the BRI and



James Wisheart

beyond" and listed more than a dozen issues that needed addressing, including the need for training, the monitoring of performance and how doctors should explain risks.

The case, which has lasted eight months and cost the council £2.2m, has sent a collective shudder through government and medical organisations which have belatedly recognised that there are no clear standards against which the performance of doctors can be judged.

Ministers announced last week that hospitals will be required to publish death rates and all doctors will be required to submit details of their performance for checks.



Pink was the order of the day, but umbrellas were Ascot's most important accessory yesterday Robert Hallam

Woodward to
get 'Diana
treatment' in
BBC interview

By DAVID USBORNE

ON THE DAY that Louise Woodward returned to Britain, it emerged that she has agreed to talk face-to-face on television with Martin Bashir, the BBC reporter who shot to stardom with his "Queen of Hearts" interview in 1995 with the Princess of Wales.

Facing reporters at Manchester airport, Woodward said that "contrary to rumours and speculation", she had not sold her story to any media outlet. She added that she had plans only for a single interview - with the BBC.

Woodward, who was flanked at the press conference by her parents, once more denied she had killed the boy who had been in her care. "I did not kill baby Matthew," she said.

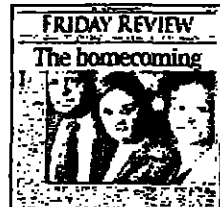
Looking forward to the rest of her life, she conceded that it could never be the same again because of her manslaughter conviction.

But, almost musing, she went on: "I'd like to go to university like I was planning to do in the first place. I'd like to do what any other 20-year-old would do, like having a part-time job."

A spokeswoman for the BBC confirmed that Mr Bashir, who is attached to *Panorama*, would conduct the Woodward interview. She denied suggestions, however, that the Woodward family had made the choice of Bashir a condition of agreeing to do the piece.

"It was we who approached the Woodward family, not the other way around," the spokeswoman said, adding that Mr Bashir had been working for several weeks on the Woodward affair. None the less, echoes of

IN THE REVIEW



The party that never was... Louise Woodward returns home

Mr Bashir's encounter with the Princess of Wales, when she spoke publicly for the first time and with astonishing frankness, about her doomed marriage to Prince Charles and spoke of her ambition of becoming the "Queen of Hearts", is certain to raise some eyebrows.

Asked whether, by assigning the interview to Mr Bashir, the BBC was unavoidably conferring a special status on a woman who is a convicted baby killer, the spokeswoman said: "No, I wouldn't say we were doing that at all."

While plans have not been finally settled, it is likely that the interview will be aired soon and before the end of the World Cup. The BBC said no money would be paid to the Woodwards.

Woodward arrived in Manchester by car from Heathrow Airport, where she had landed, with her father, Gary, at 4.40am on a British Airways flight from Boston.

BA confirmed yesterday that it had paid for the first class tickets on the 747 jumbo jet for both the Woodwards. The tickets would usually cost £2,800 each.

Beckett's job at risk in
minimum wage rowBy BARRIE CLEMENT
and COLIN BROWN

MARGARET BECKETT'S cabinet position was in the balance last night after she suffered a defeat at the hands of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, over the minimum wage, according to some of her closest cabinet colleagues.

Mrs Beckett was last night fighting to avoid being demoted from the Department of Trade and Industry in the Prime Minister's July reshuffle. Her left-wing allies were also showing signs of deserting her after she announced a basic minimum rate of £3.60 but only a transitional £3 for 18- to 21-year-olds until 2000.

The Tory trade and industry spokesman, John Redwood, taunted Mrs Beckett by saying she was being forced to "eat her words", and her natural supporters on the "Old Labour" left, in the Campaign Group, turned against her.

She secured a face-saving concession against stiff resistance from the Treasury in the knock-down fight over the weekend to review the position of 21-year-olds in 1999, and to keep the Low Pay Commission in operation. That stopped its chairman, George Bain, resigning in protest at the rejection of his commission's recommendations.

The President of the Board of

Trade's handling of the minimum wage has caused lasting enmity with Mr Brown, who has now forged a close alliance with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister. Her only cabinet-ranking ally was David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education. She also had the backing of her deputy, Ian McCartney, but appeared last night to have lost confidence around Downing Street.

Leaders of the Labour Party's biggest union affiliates, who had attacked the Commission's original recommendations, were even more angry over the amendments forced through by the Chancellor.

Minimum wage, page 2
Politics, page 8

Suspects must attend
Lawrence inquiry

By KATHY MARKS

THE five men suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence are to be forced to attend the public inquiry and answer questions about events surrounding his death, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Two judges dismissed a last-minute attempt by the men to challenge the decision to summons them. But the judges went on to rule that the suspects should not be asked whether they are innocent or guilty of the murder.

Lord Justice Simon Brown, sitting with Mr Justice Hooper, said: "Whilst the inquiry involves in a real sense the trial

of police who investigated this crime, it is in no sense a trial of these applicants..." He added: "One might have thought that the applicants, if they were innocent, would be clamouring for the chance to proclaim that innocence and clear their names. But that is not the position, and their rights must be respected. The integrity and credibility of the inquiry demand no less."

Lord Justice Brown said that, subject to this guidance, the scope of questioning was a matter on which the chairman of the inquiry, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, should be left to exercise his "absolute discretion".

The men - David Norris, 21, Neil Acourt, 22, Jamie Acourt,

21, Luke Knight, 20, and Gary Dobson, 22 - will appear before the inquiry a week on Monday. If they refuse to answer questions, they could be jailed for contempt of court.

All five have in the past been charged with killing Stephen, who was stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993. Mr Dobson, Mr Knight and Neil Acourt were acquitted at the Old Bailey in 1996. Charges against the other two never came to trial.

Lord Justice Brown said questions should be limited to those relevant to the key issue facing the inquiry: why the police investigation of Stephen's murder was so badly flawed.

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Tories called for Harriet Harman's resignation, claiming the New Deal for lone parents had failed

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Three players were sent off in the World Cup game between Denmark and South Africa

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Judge condemns legal aid fees

The chair of the highest court in the land has described as "quite astonishing" the legal aid fee bills charged by some barristers. **Page 7**

Hooligans 'cannot be sacked'

Employers could find themselves on the wrong end of the law if they follow Tony Blair's advice and sack workers found guilty of football hooliganism at the World Cup. **Page 10**

Cancer patients are living longer

Cancer patients are living longer thanks to improvements in treatment that are curing more than 10,000 people who would have otherwise died of the disease. **Page 11**

Crash victim gets £1m damages

A second-hand car salesman who was awarded £30,000 in damages after a car crash had the amount increased to over £1m by the Court of Appeal. **Page 14**

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Israeli sold poison gas to Iran

An Israeli court convicted an Israeli businessman of aiding an enemy state by selling poison gas material and chemical weapons equipment to Iran. **Page 15**

Village on trial for racist attack

A florist, an electrician, a heating engineer and a building worker are to go on trial for plotting a racist attack in Germany six years ago. **Page 16**

Republicans kill anti-tobacco bill

The tobacco industry has won its fight to destroy legislation in the US Congress that would have raised cigarette prices and regulated their sale. **Page 17**

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Thousand power jobs 'at risk'

Plans to make electricity generators sell power stations could lead to 1,000 jobs losses, a union. **Page 18**

Giants move in on travel industry

The consolidation in the travel industry took a major leap forward with a flurry of deals that puts 70 per cent of the market in the hands of four operators. **Page 19**

Clean beaches plan sparks row

The water industry regulator and the Environment Agency are locked in a row over plans to improve beaches and sewage systems. **Page 23**

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Graf loses temper after defeat

Steffi Graf lost in controversial fashion to the teenager Anna Kournikova at Eastbourne, accusing the umpire of making "too many mistakes". **Page 27**

Asprilla plea for World Cup place

Faustino Asprilla, the former Newcastle striker, publicly apologised for criticising team tactics and asked to be reinstated in the Colombian World Cup squad. **Page 29**

FRIDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Donald Macintyre

'We will govern as New Labour; the Prime Minister said on 2 May 1997. But whether on pay or coal, it doesn't come easy.' **Page 3**

Peter Victor

'Stephen Lawrence was one of all too few young blacks who might have gone on to get that toehold on the ladder to the commanding heights.' **Page 4**

Suzanne Moore

'The naming and shaming of paedophiles for instance has actually achieved very little in terms of protecting children.' **Page 5**

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After all the fighting, it's £3.60

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced the level of the national minimum wage at £3.60 an hour, after weeks of fighting in the Cabinet.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, won substantial changes to the minimum wage level, to whom the different rates will apply and to the timing of their introduction.

The Low Pay Commission had called for an adult rate of £3.60 for those aged 21 and over from April 1999, and £3.20 for 18- to 20-year-olds. After a series of prolonged and difficult negotiations, Mr Brown was able to water the recommendations down.

Yesterday, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced that 18- to 21-year-olds would be covered by a minimum of just £3 an hour which would increase to £3.20 in June 2000. Ministers have not decided whether to increase the adult rate to £3.70 an hour as recommended by the commission. The position of 21-year-olds will be reviewed in 1999 by the Commission, which has been given the brief of monitoring the minimum wage.

Asked whether she was disappointed that the changes had been forced through against her will, Mrs Beckett said the most important thing was the historic introduction of a 'minimum wage' in a way which minimised any disruptive effect. She attempted to brush aside what she regarded as esoteric media fascination with alleged ministerial differences.

Professor George Bain, who chaired the Commission - made up of employers, employees' representatives and academics - emphasised the fact that the unanimous recommendations were based on careful analysis and extensive consultation.

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

"We remain confident that our own recommendations are sufficiently cautious. In particular, we believe, from talking to employers and employees, that by their 21st birthday, workers should be treated as adults. But at the end of the day it is the Government, not the Commission, that has to take the responsibility."

Rita Donaghy, a senior official with the public service union Unison, and one of the commissioners, said while she would have preferred the commission's report be accepted in full, it should be seen as providing the building blocks to eliminate poverty pay. "It covers more than two million people and it's the biggest pay rise I've ever negotiated," she said. Some 400,000 people would benefit in London and the South-east, supposedly the most prosperous part of the country, she added.

Other trade unionists, however, were less enthusiastic. Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said lower rates for young people would create second-class citizens: "The delayed implementation of the £3.20 adds insult to workplace to poverty."

Adair Turner, Secretary-General of the CBI, said the figures were at the top end of what was acceptable to business. All 16- and 17-year-olds will be exempt from the law and so will all those participating in officially-approved apprenticeship schemes.



Gordon Brown with Margaret Beckett. Her job as President of the Board of Trade is in the balance

Beckett struggling to keep Cabinet position

MARGARET BECKETT is fighting to keep her Cabinet post as President of the Board of Trade after her bruising row with Gordon Brown.

She does not want to be moved in Tony Blair's July reshuffle, but last night her hold on her job at the DTI was very much in the balance.

Mrs Beckett is telling colleagues that after the coal rescue plan to be announced next Thursday, she has a big agenda to complete, including a re-

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

view of the public utilities and all their regulators, and the implementation of the Fairness at Work White Paper. That cuts little ice with her critics around the Cabinet table who say, privately, she has failed to get a grip on her brief.

When she arrived at the DTI, her Tory shadow, John Redwood, said she was spending too much time in her holi-

day caravan with her husband Leo. She brushed aside the attack as unworthy of serious comment, but she has been unable to secure the confidence of the big players in the Cabinet.

Her row with Mr Brown reached a crisis over the weekend, as she fought to secure some face-saving compromise from the package.

Last night she faced the critics on her own back benches when she finally "sold" the package to a private meeting of

the Parliamentary Labour Party after her statement to MPs. The sharpest criticism came from the Campaign Group, the MPs who voted for her in the leadership race when she was forced into third place by Mr Blair and John Prescott.

It was the second time in recent weeks she has been engaged in a fight with Gordon Brown. Her White Paper on trade union recognition fell short of the left-wing's demands.

The charges against Mrs Beckett have been denied by her friends, who said she had fought off the Treasury, which wanted to scrap the Low Pay Commission after its report was delivered.

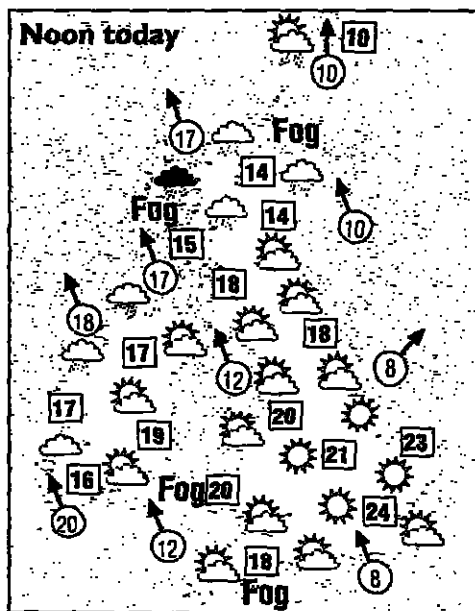
By securing its future, and by getting the review of the lower rate for 18-21 age group next year, she kept George Bain, its chairman, from resigning, said a source.

One of the reasons she has been damaged, her friends

said, was that she flatly refused to have a "spin doctor" spinning for her. She has three advisers, but none is authorised to brief the press for her on her Cabinet battles, leaving her to face rubbishing from her colleagues.

However, the Treasury was furious when it was leaked three weeks ago that she had turned over the Chancellor. That left him with no option but to win the argument over low pay, and to do it publicly.

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

Most of England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in for a hot, sunny day as temperatures soar. Northern England and Southern Scotland will start cloudy with a little drizzle over the Pennines and Southern Uplands but skies will become mostly sunny in the afternoon with it becoming very warm. Northern Scotland will be cloudy with rain but the rain will ease and die out during the afternoon with some sunshine likely to end the day, but here temperatures will be disappointing.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Most of England and Wales will bask in a heat wave on Saturday with unbroken sunshine and soaring temperatures. Scotland, Northern Ireland, Western Wales and north-west England will have more in the way of cloud but it will still be warm, although showers are likely with a risk of thundery downpours. Sunday will see little change with a risk of rain in the north and west and the heat wave continuing across the bulk of England and Wales.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	22.03	to	04.47
Birmingham	21.34	to	04.44
Bristol	21.30	to	04.53
Glasgow	22.06	to	04.31
London	21.21	to	04.43
Manchester	21.41	to	04.39
Newcastle	21.49	to	04.27

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	09:52	6.4	22:12	6.4
Liverpool	07:10	8.4	19:54	8.2
Avonmouth	02:49	11.3	15:23	11.1
Hull (Humber Docks)	12:12	7.6	14:25	7.8
Greenock	08:24	3.1	21:07	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	07:42	3.8	20:36	3.7

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings			
	NO ₂	Pollm	O ₃
London	Mod	Mod	Mod
S. England	Mod	Mod	Mod
Wales	Mod	Mod	Mod
C. England	Mod	Mod	Mod
N. England	Good	High	Good
Scotland	Good	Low/Mod	Good
N. Ireland	Good	High	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	04:43
Sun sets:	21:21
Moon rises:	02:08
Moon sets:	15:28

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5000
followed by the two digits for your area (indicated by the map print)
Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc. VAT)

YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time.			
	C. cloudy	C. clear	Fair
KEY: C. cloudy; C. clear; Fair; F. fog; H. haze; M. mist; R. rain; S. sun; Sh. shower; Sn. snow; Th. thunder.			

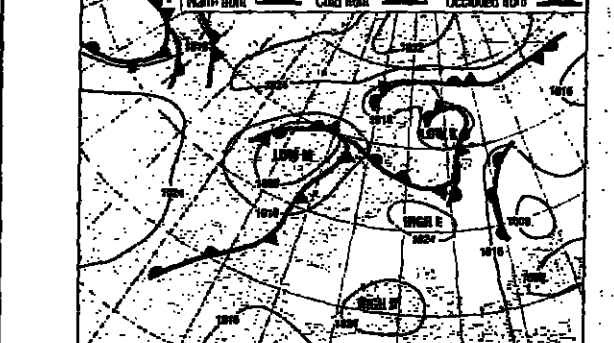
Aberdeen	F	13	55
Anglesey	F	14	57
Ayr	C	18	64
Belfast	C	16	61
Birmingham	C	17	63
Blackpool	C	15	59
Bournemouth	C	16	61
Brighton	C	15	59
Bristol	C	16	61
Cardiff	C	15	59
Carlisle	C	15	59
Dover	C	18	64
Dublin	D	18	64
Edinburgh	F	13	55
Exeter	D	17	63
Glasgow	F	17	63
Gwent	C	17	63
Guernsey	S	15	59
Inverness	S	15	59
Jessica	R	16	61
Isles of Scilly	M	15	59
Jersey	F	17	63
Leicester	C	16	61
London	C	17	63
Manchester	R	16	61
Newcastle	C	14	57
Cardiff	R	16	61
Plymouth	C	14	57
Scarborough	R	13	55
Southampton	C	17	63
Southend	F	18	64
Stornoway	F	12	54
York	D	16	61

THE WORLD

Most recent available figure at noon local time.			
	C. cloudy	C. clear	Fair
KEY: C. cloudy; C. clear; Fair; F. fog; H. haze; M. mist; R. rain; S. sun; Sh. shower; Sn. snow; Th. thunder.			

Alexandria	S	30	86
Amman	F	27	81
Algiers	S	26	79
Algeria	S	26	79
Amsterdam	S	14	57
Ankara	S	16	61
Antwerp	S	16	61
Athens	S	16	61
Auckland	S	15	59
Bahia	S	15	59
Bangkok	S	15	59
Barcelona	S	15	59
Bombay	S	15	59
Buenos Aires	S	15	59
Calcutta	S	15	59
Cairo	S	15	59
Cardiff	S	15	59
Chennai	S	15	59
Copenhagen	S	15	59
Dakar	S	15	59
Dhaka	S	15	59
Dublin	S	15	59
Edinburgh	S	15	59
Exeter	S	15	59
Glasgow	S	15	59
Guernsey	S	15	59
Harare	S	15	59
Hong Kong	S	15	59
Indianapolis	S	15	59
Jakarta	S	15	59
Jerusalem	S	15	59
London	S	15	59
Los Angeles	S	15	59
Madrid	S	15	59
Manila	S	15	59
Medan	S	15	59
Mexico City	S	15	59
Moscow	S	15	59
Mumbai	S	15	59
Nairobi	S	15	59
Paris	S	15	59
Peking	S	15	59
Rangoon	S	15	59
Rio de Janeiro	S	15	59
Rome	S	15	59
Sao Paulo	S	15	59
Seoul	S	15	59
Shanghai	S	15	59
Singapore	S	15	59
Sofia	S	15	59
Stockholm	S	15	59
Taipei	S	15	59
Tel Aviv	S	15	59
Tokyo	S	15	59
Ulaanbaatar	S	15	59
Warsaw	S	15	59
Wellington	S	15	59
Yokohama	S	15	59

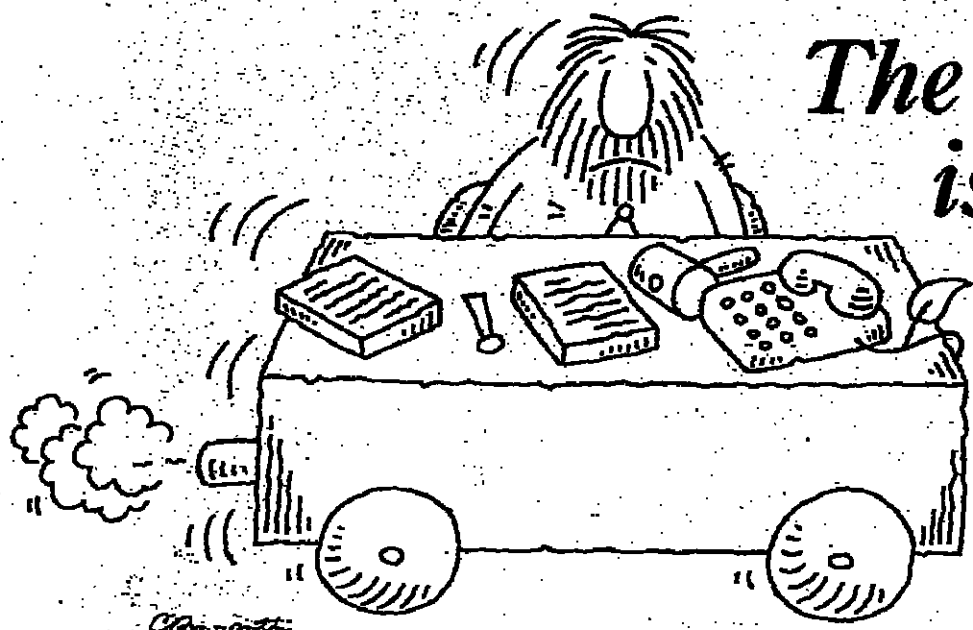
ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time.			
	C. cloudy	C. clear	Fair
KEY: C. cloudy; C. clear; Fair; F. fog; H. haze; M. mist; R. rain; S. sun; Sh. shower; Sn. snow; Th. thunder.			

Alexandria	S	30	86
Amman	F	27	81
Algiers	S	26	79
Algeria	S	26	79
Amsterdam	S	14	57
Ankara	S	16	61
Antwerp	S	16	61
Athens	S	16	61
Auckland	S	15	59
Bahia	S	15	59
Bangkok	S	15	59
Barcelona	S	15	59
Bombay	S	15	59
Buenos Aires	S	15	59
Calcutta	S	15	59
Cairo	S	15	59
Cardiff	S	15	59
Chennai	S	15	59
Copenhagen	S	15	59
Dakar	S	15	59
Dhaka	S	15	59
Dublin	S	15	59
Edinburgh	S	15	59
Exeter	S	15	59
Glasgow	S	15	59
Guernsey	S	15	59
Harare	S	15	59
Hong Kong	S	15	59
Indianapolis	S	15	59
Jakarta	S	15	59
Jerusalem	S	15	59
London	S	15	59
Los Angeles	S	15	59
Madrid	S	15	59
Manila	S	15	59
Medan	S	15	59
Mexico City	S	15	59
Moscow	S	15	59
Mumbai	S	15	59
Nairobi	S	15	59
Paris	S	15	59
Peking	S	15	59
Rangoon	S	15	59
Rio de Janeiro	S	15	59
Rome	S	15	59
Sao Paulo	S	15	59
Seoul	S	15	59
Shanghai	S	15	59
Singapore	S	15	59
Sofia	S	15	59
Stockholm	S	15	59
Taipei	S	15	59
Tel Aviv	S	15	59
Tokyo	S	15	59
Ulaanbaatar	S	15	59
Warsaw	S	15	59
Wellington	S	15	59
Yokohama	S	15	59



The trouble with most efficiency drives is they rarely get out of first gear.

Until now, that is.

And what, inquired M'Lud, is Linford's lunch box?

By JOHN DAVISON

THE SPLENDIDLY gothic Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand have been the venue for tense corporate battles, acrimonious marriage breakdowns, celebrity libel actions. All human life, as they say, is here.

It is a safe bet that yesterday was the first time the court had heard the term "lunch box" used in open court when it did not refer to something that you kept your sandwiches in.

It came during the celebrity libel action brought by Linford Christie, the former World and Olympic sprint champion, and it certainly had the trial judge confused.

Interjecting in an angry tirade from Christie on the subject, a bemused Mr Justice Poplewell asked: "What is Linford's lunch box?"

Amid laughter in the court, Christie replied: "It's a reference to my genitals, my lord."

'I have tried to laugh it off and see it as a joke, but it's not a joke... It's sexual discrimination. It's totally disgusting'

Jokes on the subject of Christie's generous endowment emerged during his career when he took to wearing all-in-one figure-hugging running suits on the track.

The exchanges came in an altogether remarkable second day of the action against John McVicar, the former armed robber turned journalist, who decided to dispense with the services of his barrister and conduct his own defence.

Mr McVicar repeatedly asserted that Christie's antagonism towards journalists was because they suspected him of taking performance-enhancing drugs. Christie eventually admitted that this was one of his grievances but not the main one. He gave the example of stories about "Linford's lunch-box" as another.

Mr McVicar followed up by saying that Christie had himself made many jokes on the subject. He quoted one occasion on which Christie had been asked about the size of his "lunch-box" and allegedly replied: "If your girlfriend saw how big it is, she would leave you."

Christie agreed that he had joked about the matter but only in the hope that it would go away. "I have tried to laugh it off and see it as a joke, but it's not a joke," he said. The one-time fastest man in the world added: "I do not like it. Nobody ever mentions Sally Gunnell's tits or anything like that. It's sexual discrimination. It's totally disgusting."

The judge brought the exchange to an end by asking Mr



In court during his libel case against John McVicar (right) today, the former world and Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie (left) said that nobody would dare make the kind of lewd jokes about the body of his fellow former athlete Sally Gunnell (below) as had been made about his

McVicar: "Where is this going?"

Christie is suing over an article written in the defunct satirical magazine *Spiked* in 1995 titled: "How did Linford get this good?"

Earlier, Mr McVicar quoted statistics showing that between 1985 and 1986 Christie improved in world sprint rankings from 156 to fourth, with personal best times going from

10.42 seconds for 100 metres to 10.04.

Wasn't this he asked "quite remarkable?"

"It is quite remarkable," said Christie, "but then I am a remarkable athlete."

He repeatedly denied ever using banned substances and emphasised his willingness to be tested anywhere, anytime.

"I've also said that when I die, they can open me up and

give what they want to science - they won't find anything tainted inside me."

He added: "I will give a sample but I don't like the process of how they take them. I do not like stripping my clothes off and having another person ogling my privates."

Earlier, Christie told the court of his anger at being given the "benefit of the doubt" by drug testers at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Mr Christie said that the discovery of a tiny quantity of the stimulant pseudoephedrine in his urine after the 200-metre final, in which he came third, was the only time in his career that he tested positive.

"At the time, I went hysterical. I knew I didn't take any steroids. You are wondering where did it come from."

"I told the team manager about the ginseng I had taken and that I was one of the great supporters of no drugs in the sport."

He said there was "no truth at all" in Mr McVicar's suggestion that he deliberately sought out prohibited drugs to help a hamstring injury, sus-

tained in the 100-metre final at the August 1996 World Championships at Gothenburg.

Mr McVicar questioned the athlete's "uncanny quick recovery" from the injury which enabled him to win a lucrative competition at Zurich two weeks later.

Referring to an incident on Wednesday when Christie broke down in tears in the witness box asking, "Why am I here?", Mr McVicar pointed out that it was Christie who had initiated the case.

Christie replied that the action was Mr McVicar's re-

sponsibility because of what he had written.

"I sit in my house minding my own business, and it is people like you who bother me that make me have to do all this," said Christie.

The case is due to continue today.

Would-be high-fliers rush for Dome job

By NONIE NIESEWARD

MORE THAN 1,000 hopefuls yesterday rang a hotline to train as acrobats for the Millennium Dome.

The chosen 100 will take part in a "daring display of aerial acrobatics comparable with the greatest circus performances in the world". And what's more, no experience is necessary.

They must be more than 16 years of age, strong, agile and with a head for heights - the Dome reaches up to 150 feet.

"We're going to be training these people to fly through the air and catch their colleagues, so they need to have some kind of spatial awareness as well," said a spokesman.

The show is being put together by Mark Fisher, who has designed productions for the Rolling Stones, Tina Turner, REM and Janet Jackson.

Circus performers can audition, but the organisers are keen to train as many as they can from scratch.

The 20-minute show, which will run six times a day, will play to audiences of up to 12,000.

The hotline - 0800 665499 - was opened on the day the sex of the 320-foot tall giant, which forms the centrepiece of the Dome was revealed.

Millennium chiefs have agonised over whether the figure should be male or female, but revised designs show they have reached a bizarre compromise - a creature half man, half woman. One side of the figure has a contoured breast, the other sports pectorals.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience Company said: "You can tell which side is male and which is female from the posture and the muscles. There's no giant genitalia or anything like that."

Instead the private parts of each will be "smoothed over" in the style of "swimsuit decency".

In addition, the figure will now be reclining instead of seated.

Visitors will still enter the figure through the leg and exit at the lower back.

Designers claimed the changes were determined by the demands of "traffic flow" around the figure.



Bill Gates adds Cliveden to his portfolio for £44m

By MATTHEW BRACE

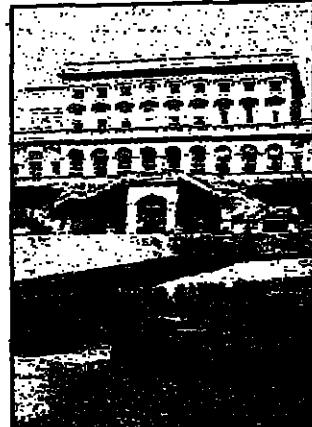
CLIVEDEN, THE stately home that provided an elaborate backdrop to the wild society parties of the Profumo affair in the early 1960s, has begun another chapter in its colourful history. It has been bought by the world's richest man, Bill Gates.

Mr Gates, the founder of Microsoft, and two other partners in an American syndicate have bought the famous building for £44m.

The consortium has bought Cliveden plc, the luxury hotel group that leases the house from the National Trust. They will also take control of the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath, the Cliveden Town House in Knightsbridge, and a new hotel being built in Edinburgh.

The move will fuel speculation that Mr Gates is planning to move to England. He recently purchased a house in the Notting Hill area of west London for £3m.

Cliveden is an impressive building in a commanding position on cliffs high above the



Gates (right) has bought the group that owns Cliveden

Thames near Maidenhead in Berkshire. It dates back to 1666, although almost all of it is more modern, having been updated several times. The 400-acre landscaped gardens stretch down steep slopes to the banks of the river.

As grand country piles go, Cliveden has seen more than its fair share of revelry over the years. When Lord and Lady Astor owned the house, they entertained such guests as

Edward VII, and the authors Rudyard Kipling and Henry James.

For the past 15 years the house has been a hotel, charging guests up to £750 per night for the luxurious Lady Astor and Prince of Wales suites, and £235 for smaller double rooms.

Although owned by the National Trust, which acts as its landlord, Cliveden plc occupies the estate on a 100-year

lease. On their takeover, Bill Gates and his business partners in the venture will automatically inherit the lease and it is believed the building will continue as a hotel.

The National Trust has the final say on structural works to Cliveden, and the hotel chain has also in the past consulted them on decorative matters. "We trust the same arrangement will continue with whoever is buying the lease," said a spokeswoman.

Cliveden plc yesterday confirmed that the deal was on the table. Already 25 per cent of the shareholders have agreed to it and the group is encouraging acceptance from other shareholders to get the minimum 50 per cent needed to push the deal through.

The National Trust said it knew negotiations were under way for a new buyer for the lease but did not know with whom. A spokeswoman said yesterday they had not been informed of the bid by Bill Gates and his associates and only knew of it through news reports.

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4/HOME NEWS



Lone parent jobs 'costing £30,000 each'

THE CONSERVATIVES called for Harriet Harman's resignation last night after claiming her plans to get lone parents back to work had failed.

But the demand foundered as the author of the research on which the Tories had based their figures dismantled their argument.

Only 200 people had found jobs as a result of the programme, according to the Conservative social security spokesman, Iain Duncan Smith. He said that with a total cost of £6.1m, that meant £30,000 per job.

The Government's latest figures showed 1,678 of the 22,400 people so far invited to join had found jobs. About half of those had come off benefit be-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

cause of the scheme, it argued yesterday.

Meanwhile the author of an independent evaluation of the programme's first nine months said the Conservatives' estimate, based on his figures, was "meaningless".

The opposition had simply got it wrong, according to John Hales, of Social and Community Planning Research, which was commissioned by the Government to evaluate the scheme and which produced its interim report last month.

The Tories had taken the 1.4 per cent difference between the number of lone parents coming off benefits in New Deal areas and in six "control areas" and had then taken away all those who did not go straight into work, reducing the figure to 0.8 per cent.

The difference was actually 1.9 per cent and, once all the 30,000 eligible lone parents had been invited, it could be higher, Mr Hales said. He did not

argue with the Government's estimate that around 800 people had come off benefit as a result of the scheme.

The Department of Social Security added that the Conservatives had failed to take note of benefit savings when they calculated the cost of the scheme. In fact a cost of £7,600 for each parent who came off benefit would be reduced by a further £2,100 in the first year by the saving, taking it to £5,441.

Mr Hales said it was too early to evaluate the scheme properly. No one knew how long each person would stay in work, how many would find work later as a result of the scheme or how much they would continue to claim in top-up benefits such as Family Credit. But the research also showed parents on the programme were very positive about it.

However, the Social Market Foundation pointed out that those finding jobs were the most employable and it would be more difficult to find people jobs in an economic downturn.

Andy Danyiewicz at the wheel of a car he and fellow students at South Bank University, in London, have designed to compete in the Global Solar Challenge endurance event in Japan

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IN BRIEF

Police inquiry over 'drugs links'

A POLICE FORCE has been rocked by the disclosure that four of its officers are being investigated over alleged links with suspected drug-smuggling. Cleveland Police has confirmed that a covert operation, code-named Teak, had resulted in four officers being told that they are under investigation, and in one of them being suspended. The inquiry, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority, was launched in 1996.

Prince takes newspaper to task

PRINCE WILLIAM has complained to the Press Complaints Commission about a supplement in the *Mail on Sunday* which he claims infringes his privacy. The paper printed a special pull-out section last week to commemorate the Prince's 16th birthday this coming Sunday. Among pages of glossy photographs the paper claimed that his private secretary vets young girls for the Prince.

McLauchlan to face theft charges

LUCILLE MCLAUCHLAN, one of the freed nurses accused of killing a colleague in Saudi Arabia, will return to the UK from an undisclosed location in a month's time to face two theft charges. Dundee Sheriff Court decided yesterday. The case was continued until 16 July. It is alleged that in 1996, at King's Cross Hospital in Dundee, McLauchlan, 32, stole a bank card and diary, and that she stole £1,960 by means of a bank card and ID number feloniously obtained.

Bank manager 'stole £400,000'

A BANK manager siphoned off almost £400,000 of customers' money after becoming disillusioned with his 25-year career, Leeds Crown Court heard yesterday. John Worsnop, a lending manager with an exemplary record at a branch of Barclays Bank, denies turning to crime to run a series of business ventures which he hoped would enable him to retire from banking.

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John Voo

THE CHALLENGE TO TASK

How touching was the opti-

And so did British Airways, which might have earned itself the moniker: Woodward official airline. 'The Spirit of Louise'

Sir Colin (soon to be Lord

And the plane's pilot was not going to tolerate any nonsense. Any trouble, he warned one highly reputable correspondent, and he would arrange for his instantaneous arrest upon arrival at Heathrow.

Mr Woodward actually accused us all of trying to "spy" on him and his daughter as they travelled the skies. Spy? Well,

turn to their lenses, Woodward looked suddenly frightened, just as she had when she first stepped onto the witness stand in last year's trial. But yesterday, just as she had on the stand, she quickly composed herself. In case we had forgotten, Woodward has no difficulty in articulating herself.

But what now for Woodward, we wanted to know? This October will see the start of the trial in the wrongful death suit filed against her by the Eappen family back in Boston. About that she would say nothing. But she is thinking about the rest of her life.

The homecoming Friday Review

BY ESTHER LEACH

Ms. Jones was talking over the garden gate at the home of Sandra McCabe,

The campaigners themselves felt confident she would clear her name and

Mrs McCabe, laughing for the first time in what has been a long week for her and the committee, said they would always be there for the Woodwards.

On the trees outside her home, yellow ribbons, the adopted symbol of the campaign, were drooping under the weight of heavy rain.

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هكذا من الأصل

The man who just can't stop buying luxury cars



Ferdinand Piech's shopping spree of famous car marques now includes Bugatti

BY DARIUS SANAI

IF A middle-aged man who owned a Skoda Felicia, a VW Golf and a Seat Ibiza suddenly went out and bought himself a Lamborghini and a Rolls-Royce, his friends might be forgiven for starting to wonder about his mental health.

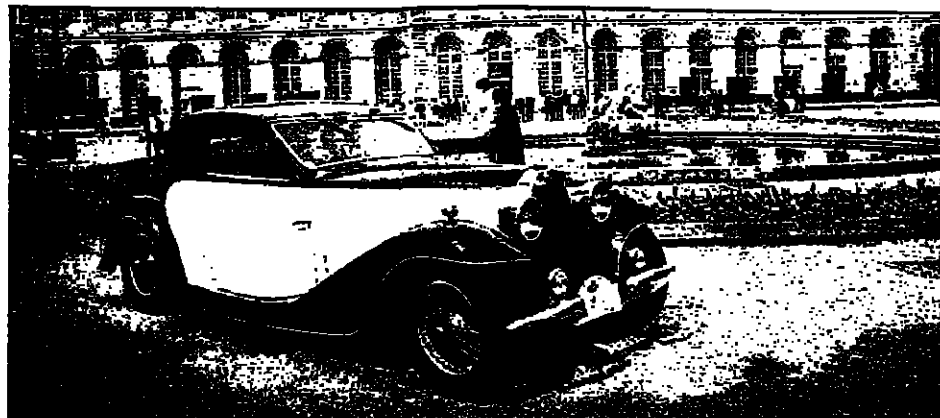
And if the same middle-aged man then announced he was trying to buy a Bugatti - an Italian sports car so outrageous nobody has ever seen one - his nearest and dearest might be seriously concerned.

Ferdinand Piech is just such a man. Like the American tycoon who appreciated Remington razors so much he bought the company, Mr Piech is on a shopping spree of exotic car companies.

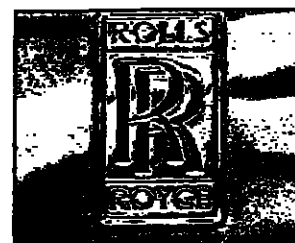
At the beginning of this year, Mr Piech, the chairman of Germany's Volkswagen Group, Europe's biggest car-maker, was in charge of VW, its sister company Audi, Seat and its (relatively) new acquisition, Skoda. His companies were doing well and in America a new Beetle was being launched to a dazzling public reception.

But this wasn't enough for Mr Piech. Earlier this month, he successfully outbid archrival BMW for Rolls-Royce. Only a week after paying £60m for the classic company (although he admittedly got Bentley, less flashy, faster and considered a better investment by analysts, thrown in) it was revealed he was buying Lamborghini.

Until then, most people agreed that a £220,000 Bentley Azure was as far as it was possible to get from a Volkswagen



The Bugatti vintage (above) has joined other badges of distinction in the Ferdinand Piech collection, including Rolls Royce and Lamborghini



Polo. Rapidly, they changed their minds; a Lamborghini Diabolo Roadster, which costs the same, is a road-melting 200mph beast. Only 600 are made every year.

Now Mr Piech is buying Bugatti, a car company so exotic it doesn't even make cars. Its Italian factory turned out the last £150,000 EB110, a quadruple-turbo, V12-engined apparition that accelerated to 60mph faster than the Space Shuttle and then promptly exploded, in 1995, before going into receivership.

People who know the man describe him variously as brilliant, arrogant, powerful and autocratic. Worth hundreds of

millions of pounds, Mr Piech is an engineer by training, and recognised by friends and rivals as Germany's most brilliant; he designed the Le Mans-winning Porsche 917 during the Sixties, and was responsible for the legendary Audi Quattro when he switched allegiance. He rules his companies with an iron fist and an inspired mind.

But the new purchases are no whim.

"[Mr Piech] sees them as being part of the VW arsenal," says Gavin Green, editor-in-chief of Car magazine. The status will rub off on other marques. "He wants VW to be a much broader company than

it was two months ago. I'm sure he thinks he will make money out of them. And, anyway, Lamborghini only cost \$50m, which is a drop in the ocean for VW."

Observers are wondering what's next for Mr Piech. A few hundred miles from VW HQ is a family-owned firm many would love to get their hands on: Porsche. But the world's ultimate compulsive shopper doesn't even need to try. For Mr Piech is the grandson of Ferdinand Porsche, the company's founder; he owns some 10 per cent of the company (estimated to be worth more than £2bn), and sits on its board. It beats sitting in a Skoda.

QCs claim 'astonishing' legal aid fees

MICHAEL MANSFIELD QC, the leading radical lawyer, claimed £416 an hour for work in one of a series of senior barristers' legal aid claims. The bills were described yesterday as "quite astonishing" by the chair of the highest court in the land.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairing the Appeal Committee of the House of Lords, said it was "pretty shattering" that the bills submitted by four of the country's leading QCs had all had to be drastically cut because they were so excessive.

"All the information shows we have got quite astonishing fees claimed compared with what was subsequently allowed," he said. "We have not got a single fee which has been claimed by counsel which has been allowed."

Details of the charges made by Mr Mansfield were revealed during the second day of an inquiry into criminal legal aid bills for appeals heard in the House of Lords. The inquiry follows widespread concerns that criminal legal aid fees are running out of control.

Mr Mansfield, who had been appearing for Gary Mills and Tony Poole in their unsuccessful appeal against a murder

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

conviction, claimed a "brief fee" of £20,000, which included 43 hours preparation and the first day in court.

Nigel Fleming QC, representing the Lord Chancellor, told the hearing that the average day before the Law Lords lasted five hours - giving a total worked by Mr Mansfield of 48 hours.

Mr Mansfield had also claimed £1,000 a day for the subsequent two days of the hearing - which was allowed by the House of Lords officials.

Another leading QC, Richard Henriques, claimed £288 an hour brief fee for another murder case appeal heard by the Law Lords.

He worked 80.5 hours to prepare, at a self-assessed rate of £175 per hour, then added a 65 per cent "uplift" in order "to reflect the care, control and conduct of a case in the House of Lords". He then added expenses and rounded the total up to £25,000. That claim has not yet been settled.

Mr Fleming told the hearing that in another case, the brief fees submitted by Peter Fein-

berg QC and his junior had risen by more than 400 per cent as the case went through the appeal system.

At the six-day trial they claimed £15,000. But when the case went to the House of Lords for a three-day hearing last February they claimed a total of £69,311, reduced by Lords officials to £28,341.42.

James Munby QC, representing the barristers who submitted the disputed bills, said their fees had been worked out by their clerks telephoning other chambers to establish "the going rate". He said the cases were so important that there was an extra responsibility on the lawyers involved.

He cited the case of Philip English, jailed for life for the murder of police sergeant Bill Forth. Mr English was under arrest at the time a friend of his attacked the officer, but he was convicted under the doctrine of "joint enterprise".

Christopher Sallon QC took the case to the House of Lords and had the conviction overturned, establishing a legal precedent. His bill is among those rejected as too high.

Judgement was reserved by the Law Lords.

Half of patients given poor emergency care

HALF OF patients admitted to hospital in an emergency receive poor care which doubles their risk of dying, an inquiry has revealed.

An investigation into the quality of care received by 100 critically ill patients admitted to intensive care units in two hospitals in Southampton and Portsmouth found that in 54 the standard was "sub-optimal", and 26 of these patients died.

This was almost twice the death rate among the 20 patients whose care was judged to have been managed well. The patients had suffered heart attacks, road accidents and many were admitted from general wards to the intensive care unit with a range of conditions.

Dr Peter McQuillan, consultant in intensive care and anaesthesia at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, who coordinated the study, says in the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

British Medical Journal that emergency admissions have risen by 50 per cent since 1984 and that this rise in numbers should not be at the expense of quality of care. He says a "major re-evaluation" of the way acute care is provided is required.

The authors found there were delays affecting two thirds of the 54 patients who were not treated adequately, which meant they were admitted late into intensive care. Breathing and circulation problems were poorly managed before admission and the patients' condition was inadequately monitored.

Most of the cases were dealt with by junior doctors who failed to appreciate their clinical urgency, lacked supervision and failed to seek advice. These problems were compounded

by poor organisation and a lack of knowledge.

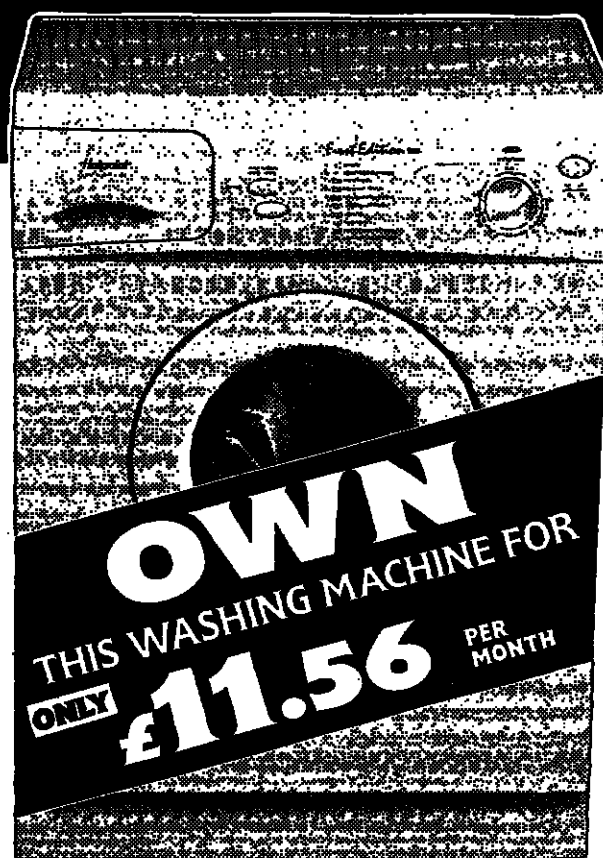
The findings "suggest a fundamental problem of failure to appreciate that airway, breathing and circulation are the prerequisites of life and that their dysfunctions are the common denominators of death... The concept of doctors as 'physiology police' may have been lost."

The authors suggest that one way of dealing with the shortcomings may be to create medical emergency "hit squads" which would respond immediately to patients with breathing or circulation problems. It was estimated that 41 per cent of the patients might have avoided admission to intensive care had earlier care been properly provided.

The study was carried out in 1992-93 and the authors say they believe the standard of care has improved since.

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Trade minister takes easy runs off over-smart Tory bowling

IF MARGARET Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, was feeling nervous as she contemplated what to wear before her difficult day yesterday, she could be forgiven for having a celebratory drink after her statement on the minimum wage.

The pundits had written her off earlier in the week after her supposed row in cabinet with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Looking ice-cool in a well-tailored Thatcher-like beige dress and matching jacket, her years of political experience showed that rumours of her forthcoming demise were premature.

Her statement announcing the Government's response to the Low

Pay Commission had been well trailed and contained few surprises. She was "supported" by Gordon Brown, sitting next to her muttering and prompting occasionally.

For the Labour backbenchers, who were as nervous as Mrs Beckett, the subject of the greatest controversy was the lower hourly rate of pay for 18- to 21-year-olds.

But she handled two potential troublemakers, Lynne Jones (Lab, Birmingham Selly Oak) and John McAllion (Lab, Dundee East) with courtesy, firmness and aplomb. There will be a rebellion of sorts but it may not be life-threatening for her.

Those who had reservations, such as David Winnick (Lab, Walsall

North) and Chris Mullin (Lab, Sunderland South), simply turned the attack on to the Tories. Down with the rich! Up with the poor! Mr Winnick said it was "sickening" that Tory MPs were in favour of "starvation wages".

Mrs Beckett rightly fears the fast bowling of John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, and he certainly draws blood from the DTL. He described the minimum wage as "fool's gold". He likened the tension between the Chancellor and Mrs Beckett to a mod and rockers' government. "The mods believe you can do it all with soundbites... the rockers, led by the Chancellor, spend their time trying to break up the manifesto promises."

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Mr Redwood is undoubtedly a hard-working performer and if Mrs Beckett is moved to another de-

partment he will have played his part along. His main problem is his Tory backbenchers who gave Mrs Beckett very easy runs off bowling too clever by half.

Philip Hammond (Con, Runnymede and Weybridge) asked Mrs Beckett whether she felt humbled at the alleged watering down of the manifesto commitment. "I am always humble but I also feel pride," she replied. Tony Baldry (Con, Banbury) fared no better when he said that the policy would cost jobs. "If he were to give up one of his six jobs' this might help," she said.

Whatever the arguments about this issue, the Tories will be humbled at every future Commons ex-

change with one simple question: Will they abolish the minimum wage? Mr Redwood should be telling the Tory leader William Hague and the backbenchers what the line is going to be as quickly as he can.

The warm-up act for Mrs Beckett was performed by her admirable junior minister, Ian McCartney, who not only has a welcome sense of humour but is also on top of the job.

A Tory backbencher, Ian Bruce (Con, Dorset South) asked Mr McCartney if he planned to resign for not fulfilling promises on the minimum wage. Mr McCartney had just told the Commons of his pride at the Government's aim to make work pay. Mr Bruce accused him of ranting. Yes

he does, but the House loves it and in any exchange Mr McCartney, who may be verbally challenged, will always knock out Mr Bruce.

Mr Bruce demanded Mr McCartney's resignation and wanted the House to "look us in the eye over this matter". Mr McCartney retorted: "I will stand on a box anytime and look you in the eye," to laughter from all sides.

Dave Watts (Lab, St Helens North) addressed him as a privy counsellor Mr McCartney, to cheers, said: "I have not yet been made a right honourable but I will pass the suggestion on to the Prime Minister. That was a joke." Don't joke, Ian, it may happen sooner than you think.

Beckett gets rough ride over £3 wage

LABOUR MPs voiced "bitter disappointment" yesterday over the minimum wage statement. They attacked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Margaret Beckett, giving her a rougher ride than the Opposition. Mrs Beckett announced a £3.60 minimum wage but, to the dismay of many Labour backbenchers, confirmed that workers under 21 will receive just £3 per hour. This will increase to £3.20 in June 2000.

The minister said her announcement marked "a further milestone in implementing this Government's manifesto commitments" and in her closing remarks said: "Among the few people out of step appear to be the party opposite."

The sharpest criticism came from Labour's Lynne Jones (Birmingham Selly Oak), who said the announcement was "bitterly disappointing".

She said: "Having been elected in 1992 on a promise of the £3.40-an-hour minimum wage and having seen what has happened to MPs' salaries since then, may I say that I find today's proposals bitterly disappointing - even more so at the failure to implement the Low Pay Commission's proposals in full."

"You said that today's measures would be the beginning of the end of poverty pay. When do expect we will end it for good?" Ms Jones added.

Mrs Beckett replied that the

MINIMUM WAGE

By Daisy Sampson

minimum wage had been set at a level which would minimise its impact on employment.

Three more Labour backbenchers echoed Ms Jones's attack. David Winnick (Walsall North) voiced "some reservations" while John McAllion (Dundee East) demanded why young people could be "discriminated against simply because they are young people?"

"How can you get young people to take seriously our talk of trying to tackle social exclusion when we ourselves exclude them from the same rights every other adult citizen has simply because of their age?" he asked.

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover), while acknowledging "a huge leap forward in the Labour Party's historic crusade against unemployment and poverty", urged Mrs Beckett to "have another look" at the wage rate for young people.

Mr Skinner also wanted to know whether payments like tips would be taken into account. If so, he said: "Ministers would be in some serious trouble."

The President of the Board confirmed to MPs that any tips that were included on a payroll would be subject to minimum wage legislation.

Maria Fyfe (Glasgow Maryhill) attacked this recommendation. Urging Mrs Beckett to

reconsider, she argued that when a customer gives a tip for good service they do not expect the employer to skim off the money.

Both David Burrow (Ribble South) and Chris Pond (Graveley), a former director of the Low Pay Unit, welcomed the statement but asked the Government to ensure that, when the Low Pay Commission reconsiders the wage level for 21-year-olds, all aspects will be reviewed, including the under-18s.

Mrs Beckett told the Labour MPs: "The Government has long since come to the conclusion that what was better was to proceed by means of social partnership, by practical discussions between those who draw their experience both from employers of varying sizes and also from the workforce and to come to an agreed view about what was thought the most practical and sensible way of implementing the national minimum wage."

"We decided long ago that this was the right path to pursue and, with deep respect to you, you fought the last election on that policy."

Mrs Beckett told the Commons that 200,000 young people will benefit, even at £2 per hour; but John Cryer (Hornchurch), son of the late Labour MP Bob Cryer - asked Mrs Beckett what guarantees she could give so that "16- to 18-year-olds won't be exploited?"



Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, sizing up her double at Speaker's House in Westminster yesterday. The wax model goes on show at Madame Tussaud's in London today

Smith wants opera for all

THE ROYAL Opera House could be forced to throw open its doors to more members of the general public, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, hinted yesterday after receiving a damning report on the civil war within its management.

The report, by Sir Richard Eyre, savages the management of the Royal Opera House - graphically revealed in a fly-on-the-wall television series - for inefficiency and ineffectiveness.

But Mr Smith, who will publish the report in a fortnight, made it clear he wants to use it to force the Royal Opera House to end its reputation for catering for the cultural elite and make itself more accessible.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

efficient and to make the arts more accessible.

He said the report's findings showed that "just because they are producing great art and putting on wonderful performances does not preclude them from the need to run themselves efficiently. Good administration is just as important as high artistic excellence."

"The second lesson is that arts should be for everyone. They are not for a cultural elite. They are not sacred temples that half the population is scared stiff of going into."

"I want as an absolute over-

riding objective of policy to make things of quality available to the many, not the few. And Richard Eyre argues in his report passionately for the opening up of the Royal Opera House to a wider audience."

Mr Smith cited the example of the Hamlyn Week at the National Theatre, in which ordinary members of the public who did not normally go to the theatre were brought in with seats at the reduced rate of £5.

The culture secretary also appeared to rule out the privatisation of Channel 4, following speculation that the Chancellor was seeking to in-

clude it in the list of assets for public-private partnerships. Mr Smith said the Prime Minister had given assurances at the general election that it would not be privatised and that policy would remain. "We said we have no plans for the privatisation of Channel 4. We stand by that," he said.

The only part of his empire for semi-privatisation is the tea-house at St James's Park, which is being developed as a private finance initiative scheme. He said the royal parks, museums, art galleries and Trafalgar Square would remain in public hands.

THE HOUSE



Blair on Europe

TONY BLAIR yesterday hit back at Tory critics over his presidency of the European Union. He told MEPs in Strasbourg that the days of Britain being out in the cold in Europe had ended, saying: "The days of the Beef War, 14 against one, government positions ravaged by warring factions in the governing party are over."

Identity for UK

PETER Mandelson last night claimed the Government was helping to forge a new identity for Britain by encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship. In a speech to an international conference on corporate identity in London, the Minister without Portfolio drew a distinction between the 1980s concept of entrepreneurship, driven by the profit motive, and a new breed of entrepreneurs who want to "make a difference".

Inquiry closed

A TRADE and Industry Department inquiry into alleged insider dealing by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare will not be re-opened, the Government said last night. Labour's Andrew Miller had asked President of the Board of Trade Margaret Beckett to renew the probe into Lord Archer's acquisition of 25,000 Anglia-TV shares in 1994.

Abortion law fears

SCOTLAND

By Colin Brown

THE SCOTTISH Parliament could have the power to tighten the abortion laws under an amendment to the Scotland Bill in the Lords promoted by Lord Steel.

The Liberal Democrat peer, who was responsible for introducing the 1987 Abortion Act, said yesterday that it was likely the Government would be defeated in the Lords, because he has the backing of the Tory peers, who have a majority in the Upper Chamber.

Ministers fear it could lead to tighter abortion rules in Scotland than in England, and decided to leave the power to amend the abortion laws to the Westminster Parliament amid rumours that the Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, suffered a rebuff in the

Cabinet over the Scotland Bill.

Lord Steel said he did not believe the Scottish Parliament would buck the trend across Europe by adopting tougher laws against abortion, but he said: "They should have the right to get it wrong."

The Government fought off an attempt to amend the legislation in the Commons to extend the power over abortion to the Scottish Parliament, although two Government whips - Tommy McAvoy and John McFall - were given special dispensation to vote against the Government.

Lord Steel, a former leader of the Liberal Party, said if the Government was defeated on

the Bill's committee stage in the Lords next month, it would then be up to the Government to decide whether to reverse the change when the Bill comes back to the Commons. "I don't think they will make a song and dance about it," he said.

Lord Steel said he was tabling his amendment as "a matter of principle" as it was "illogical" that the Scottish Parliament should not have the right to decide on the issue.

"One must hope that the Scottish Parliament would be sufficiently sensible that the legislation did not get too out of kilter with what is happening in England," he added.

Abortion is a particularly sensitive issue in Scotland where there is a strong body of Catholic opinion firmly opposed to it.

Welsh sheep still radioactive

ONE HUNDRED and eighty thousand North Welsh sheep remain affected by radioactivity as a result of the Chernobyl reactor accident in the mid-1980s, Win Griffiths announced in a written question last night. The area of land under restriction is 530 square kilometres.

N Ireland Army complaints up

THERE HAS been an increase in non-criminal complaints against the Army in Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, confirmed yesterday. But, on the release of the report of the Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures, she remains

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

of the view that the complaints procedures are given proper attention by the Army.

Supplier of RAF aircraft found

BOMBARDIER SERVICES has been selected to supply Grob 115D aircrafts to the RAF's planned Light Aircraft flying task contract. The aircraft will be owned and maintained by the contractor, who will provide flying hours and support services to the University Air Squadrons and the Air cadet Air Experience Flights at 13 locations around the country.

Conservatives vote against Ulster Bill

NORTHERN IRELAND

By Colin Brown

DEEP CRACKS appeared last night in the bi-partisan approach to Northern Ireland after the Tories voted against the Government's bill to allow the early release of terrorist prisoners as part of the Good Friday peace plan.

It came as the Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, ordered an investigation into angry claims that the Government may have "doctored" the Prime Minister's assurances to MPs in Hansard, the Commons official record, to cover up for a breach of faith over the linkage of prisoner releases with the decommissioning of weapons.

Andrew MacKay, the Tory Northern Ireland spokesman, said he could not sign a "blank

cheque" for the Government, but he denied he was breaking the bi-partisan Labour maintained in Opposition.

However, last night's vote caused a deep rift in relation, which could break down if the Tory peers carry out the threat to reject the Bill in the Lords.

Downing Street officials angrily said Labour had never broken the Northern Ireland deal with the past Tory government and questioned whether there was "clear thinking" in the Tory leadership. That was seen as a challenge to William Hague to get a grip on his

Northern Ireland spokesman. Tory sources said Mr Hague had fully endorsed the line taken by Mr MacKay at Wednesday night's Cabinet. Mr MacKay said: "We will support the Government wherever we can, when they are right, but as an Opposition we will oppose them when they are wrong."

"We don't like the idea of early prisoner releases. We reluctantly accepted that as part of the package and we will hold our noses and support the Government, but we are not prepared to see the Government mislead the people of Northern Ireland on the promises they have made."

The row centres on the assurances given in the Com-

mons on 6 May by Mr Blair. In the transcript of the exchanges with Mr Hague, Mr Blair explicitly agreed with the Tory leader that prisoners "should not be released early until the organisations to which they belong have substantially decommissioned their weapons".

But in the official report, that exchange was omitted. Mr MacKay said the report had been "doctored", but that charge was denied by the Prime Minister's official spokesman, who said Number 10 did not routinely check Hansard for the accuracy of its reports of Prime Minister's questions.

The Tories faced further criticism that they were taking a harder line against the third

reading of the Bill than David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader. He was not present for last night's vote, as he was campaigning in Ulster for next week's elections to the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Tories claimed the Secretary of State was not required by the legislation - despite promises during the referendum campaign - to ensure that weapons decommissioning was going on before prisoners were given early release.

Mr Trimble secured a late concession from Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to require the Commission to implement the terms of the peace agreement, specifically involving decommissioning.

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(see Friday Review, music section.)

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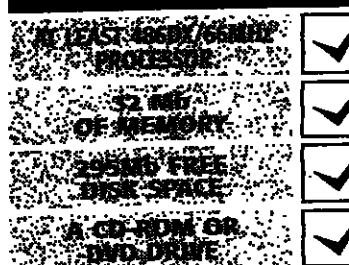
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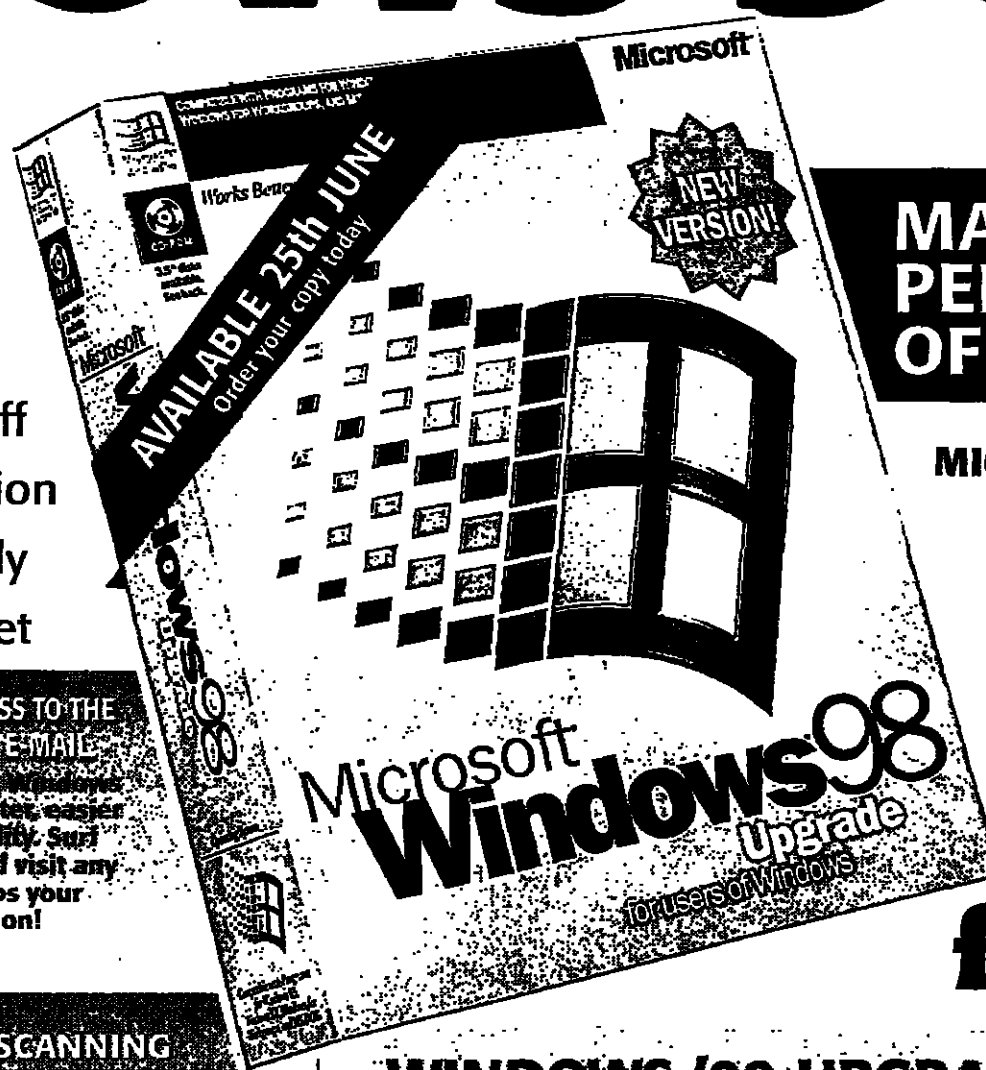
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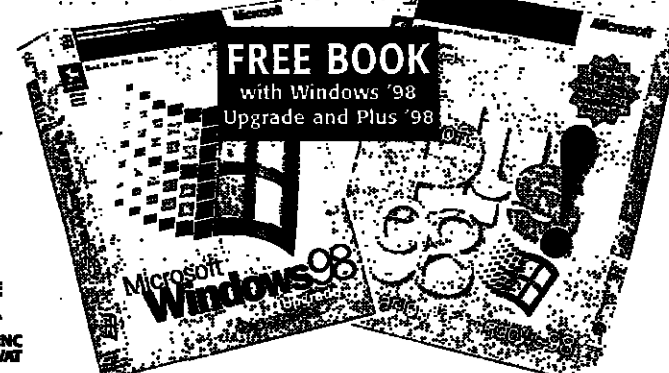
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10/HOME NEWS

World Cup: Respectable-seeming England fans turn violent while other nations stay out of trouble

Lawyers warn on sacking hooligans

EMPLOYERS COULD find themselves on the wrong end of the law if they followed Tony Blair's advice and sack workers found guilty of football hooliganism at the World Cup.

Lawyers warned yesterday that while it might be possible to take such tough action in some cases, in others employers could be faced with financial penalties for unfair dismissal.

Companies are on reasonably safe ground if they sack employees who have worked for them for less than two years, as the full protection of the law only applies to those who have worked for one employer for longer than that. Even for those cases, however, businesses should follow their own disciplinary procedures before showing trouble-makers the door, lawyers say.

An employer would have a strong case for dismissal where it was well known that a worker who dealt with the public was a convicted thug. In some jobs such as teaching, the probation service or police force, employers would have a particularly strong case.

But where the offender was a "backroom boy" who simply answered the telephone, the employer would have a far more difficult time proving the fairness of the dismissal. They would have to prove that the image of the organisation might be tarnished if it was found to be employing someone who was guilty of a particularly nasty crime. The business could also attempt to show that the offenders' ability to do the job had been undermined by deteriorating relationships with other staff.

Mary Stacey, a partner with Thompsons solicitors which

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

represents union members, pointed out that the Prime Minister was an employment lawyer and clearly knew the pitfalls. "I think it's more of a threat aimed at modifying people's behaviour than a serious piece of legal advice," Ms Stacey said.

Robert McCreath, a partner at solicitors Eversheds, which normally acts for employers, said management would often be better off using a form of "yellow card" warning to convicted soccer hooligans among their staff. "Employers wishing to strengthen their position for the future, should also review their disciplinary procedures to ensure that hooliganism and related activities are covered," he said.

Those in the firing line who were arrested after clashes in Marseilles during the England-Tunisia game include a Nuneaton railway man and two postal workers. The RMT rail union said that it would represent any member who thought they were being unfairly dismissed, while the Communication Workers Union preferred not to comment.

The Prime Minister's comment in the Commons that employers might consider dismissing hooligans, was followed by a statement from Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who said that employers should look at the particular circumstances involved. "They may well want to consider the impact of the behaviour on the reputation of the business and the suitability of these individuals to deal with customers and fellow workers," he said.



Denmark supporters in the centre of Toulouse, who produced not even a hint of trouble

Peter Macdarmid

'It is a part of Danish culture that we drink but stay in a good mood'

THE GAME is called "gallop" and the rules seem dangerously simple. "If you get dealt a queen or a knight from the pack of cards then you drink half your drink. But if you get dealt an ace you have to finish it," explained Lars Honriksen, 35, from Grenaa, a port city in Denmark's Jutland region.

Lars and his friends had been drinking since 6am when they set off on the train from Paris yesterday morning and they were old hands at such games. "Yes, sometimes it does mean that you get to drink a lot," he admitted. "It's more a game for the younger people." In truth there were few Danes playing gallop in

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Toulouse

Toulouse yesterday but there were thousands of them tipping beer down their throats with a rare fury before their team's afternoon encounter against South Africa.

In the sweltering open squares in the city centre, many of the 20,000 Danish fans wearing red and white shirts and waving flags, were having a party with such intensity you would have thought the world was about to impose an eternal ban on enjoyment. And quite predictably, there was not the merest hint of any trouble. It would be too simplistic to say

all Danes can drink like fish and remain decent, charming people, while a half-pint of watery lager turns into a violent yob. But yesterday's scenes posed the question: why do some end up fighting in the streets while others do not?

"I think it is part of Danish culture that we drink and enjoy ourselves but stay in a good mood," said Soren Jensen, also from Grenaa.

Other countries manage this trick as well. James Rawlinson, the British Consul General in south-west France, witnessed the encounter between the Norwegian and Scottish fans after their team's 1-1 match in

Bordeaux. "Between them they drank the place dry. They were drunk, they were loud but they were incredibly good natured," he said. "There was not one incident reported to the police and no one I have spoken to has had a bad word against them."

The local paper even ran a story welcoming back the Scots any time they wanted to come and thanking them for adding to the atmosphere.

Inspector Peter Chapman, head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service's football unit, said this week that excessive drinking was a key factor in the violence that broke out last weekend in Marseilles. His analysis may be right but

there must be more to it than just that.

Toulouse's "English pub" the Frog and Roshif, a noisy, sweaty place where they brew their own beer, has been full of English supporters this week. They have been loud, drunk and singing along to Queen hits from the Seventies, but they have not been causing any trouble.

"You should not be too hard on the English," said Mr Honriksen's friend Eydor Sorensen. "I was in Sheffield during Euro '96 and I had a great time with the English. There was no trouble," he said. "I just think some of the English people are not here for the football."

Fears over mobile phones

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

MOUNTING EVIDENCE suggests that mobile phones really can damage your health.

Research by German scientists indicates that the electromagnetic fields given off by a phone can raise your blood pressure, even if you do not know the phone is working.

The finding is the third piece of medical evidence in the past year pointing towards malignant effects of such phones, which have spread rapidly in the past 15 years. Previous research showed that phones could increase cancer risk for rats, and cause memory loss and confusion.

The latest study, published today in the *Lancet*, was carried out by a team at Freiburg University with the German telephone company Deutsche Telekom. A team of 10 healthy people aged between 26 and 36 had phones strapped to the sides of their head. These were turned on and off remotely, so the volunteers did not know if the phones were emitting microwaves or not.

The volunteers' blood pressure, heart rate and estimates of "well-being" were measured over a number of days while their phones were on and off. The researchers found a small but significant rise in blood pressure, though no statistical effect on heart rate.

The research is another piece in a jigsaw that does not seem to favour the phones. Fears that they could trigger cancers first surfaced in the United States in 1993, when a man rang a television talk show and claimed his wife had developed a tumour behind her left ear after using an early model of mobile phone.

The National Radiological Protection Board, the organisation which is responsible for monitoring the health effects of radiation, said it could not comment on the latest research. But it has previously accepted that low-level radiation could alter the way brain cells behave.

Oxfam Sudan Appeal

1.2 million people face starvation in Sudan

Right now, in Sudan, 1.2 million people are threatened by starvation because of war and drought.

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Assault puts a strain on friendships at 'European'

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

ANDREW NEIL, editor in chief of the *European* news magazine, is facing an office rebellion if he does not sack his closest friend, the ex-Tory minister Gerry Malone, for hitting one of the newspaper's journalists.

Mr Malone, who was a health minister in John Major's government and is now editor of the *European*, has issued a formal apology to the title's features editor, Nicola Davidson, after making a drunken sexual approach to her and then hitting her around the head when it was rebuffed.

Mr Malone's position at the magazine is hanging in the balance depending on whether Ms Davidson accepts the apology. It is known that a number of other *European* employees have said they no longer wish to work with Mr Malone after his behaviour. Some have lobbied Ms Davidson to hire a lawyer and make a stand against sexual harassment.



Andrew Neil (left) is very upset at his friend Gerry Malone (right) for hitting a journalist at the 'European'. Sue Douglas (centre) 'has the matter in hand'



Mr Malone's actions, which were witnessed by at least three other *European* employees, happened when he returned from watching the Scotland versus Brazil World Cup match in a pub.

Sue Douglas, managing editor of the paper, said yesterday: "It is an entirely internal matter and the company has taken appropriate action. We have

the matter in hand." But Mr Neil is known to have been deeply upset by the incident despite his closeness to Mr Malone.

The two have known each other since university and at one time they were flatmates. Mr Neil caused much resentment when as editor of the *Sunday Times* he appointed Mr Malone as Scottish editor after

Mr Malone lost his first parliamentary seat in 1987. The two also bought a business together, the Country Gentlemen's Association, a magazine and mail-order business targeted at the stately homes of Britain.

In the general election last year Mr Malone lost his Winchester seat by two votes and was appointed editor of the *European* earlier this year.

Billie-Jo trial told that foster father changed his story

SION JENKINS changed his story between the killing of his foster daughter Billie-Jo and a statement made four days later, a court heard yesterday.

On the day of Billie-Jo's murder, Mr Jenkins, 40, told police he had not been in the family home for as long as 45 minutes before her body was found on the patio.

But he later described returning home after collecting a daughter from a music lesson and over hearing Billie-Jo in conversation only around 15 minutes before the death was discovered. Billie-Jo, 13, was found blud-

BY LOUISE JURY

geoned about her head with a metal spike in February last year at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, where she had been painting the patio doors.

Asked to explain why he had not given full details earlier in the investigation, Mr Jenkins said in interview that he did not know. "I pushed myself to give every bit of information to IDC Steven Hutt," he said in further interview.

Lewes Crown Court heard that he initially said he had not gone into the house after the

music lesson, but waited on the steps outside for his daughter Lottie to drop off her car.

But under questioning four days later, he said: "I would have been aware if there had been anything wrong. I was aware that Billie was alive."

In statements read to the court yesterday, police were heard asking Mr Jenkins why he initially failed to observe the extensive savage injuries to her skull.

Detective Sergeant Anne Capon asked: "You find your daughter in a pool of blood, you go over to her, you think you notice a scratch on the side of her

face, but you didn't notice a big gaping hole in the top of her head?" Mr Jenkins said no.

Mr Jenkins, who denies Billie-Jo's murder, said he must have been in shock.

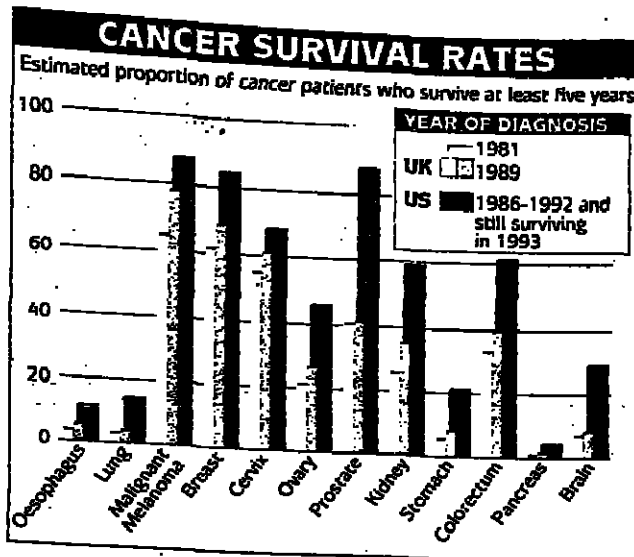
He said he had been in a good mood and had not been irritable towards his four natural children and Billie-Jo.

When he crouched down to show Billie-Jo how to paint the patio doors, she had mounted his back in horseplay.

Police officers asked Mr Jenkins whether Billie-Jo was flirting with him when she climbed on his back. He said no. The trial continues.

Cancer sufferers are living longer

... but survival rates in Britain lag behind



CANCER PATIENTS are living longer than ever before, thanks to improvements in treatment and diagnosis - in the past decade, more than 10,000 people who would otherwise have died of the disease have been cured.

There has been a steady increase in the number of cancer victims who survive for five years or more. At the start of the 1980s about 25 per cent of cancer patients could be considered cured; this rose to 30 per cent by 1989, according to official statistics released yesterday.

About 200,000 people in England and Wales were diagnosed with cancer in 1989 and 60,000 of these survived for at least five years, said Dr Gillian Reeves, a senior researcher at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), which runs a joint project on cancer survival with the government's Office for National Statistics.

Dr Reeves said that the figures reflect a real improvement in the prognosis rather than just being a statistical effect caused by earlier diagnosis leading to people appearing to live longer.

"Simply diagnosing cancer at an earlier stage of its development can by itself create the appearance of an increase in survival. However, it looks as if the cancers that are showing an increase in survival are those in which we know that earlier detection or better treatment can improve the prognosis," she said.

The study of survival rates investigated 15 of the most common cancers, and although there was an overall increase in survival of about 5 per cent, the improvement did not apply to all cancers.

Survival rates for some of the most common cancers, for instance of the lung, prostate and pancreas, remained the same over the period studied. But for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, leukaemia and

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, survival rates were higher than the average.

Dr Mike Quinn, the director of the National Cancer Registration Bureau at the Office of National Statistics, said: "These results are based on over 370,000 people diagnosed with cancer in 1981 and 1989 and represent the most reliable national estimates of cancer survival available to date."

Professor Karol Sikora, a cancer specialist at the Hammersmith Hospital, in west London, said there were several reasons why Britain continues to see an improvement in cancer survival, although it still lags behind many other developed countries. He said that people are more aware of the disease and are less frightened of consulting their doctor with signs of early symptoms. He added that there is better access to good diagnostic services than there was 15 years ago. "From research comes new techniques. There is much more precision about getting diagnosis right," he said.

The figures show that survival rates are slightly higher for women than men. This is probably a reflection of the type of cancers that women get - such as breast cancer - which have shown even better improvements in outlook. Dr Reeves said. It might also partly be due to women coming forward with health problems earlier than men, she said.

The success in treating many forms of cancer reflects a genuine improvement, said Dr Paul Nurse, the director-general of the ICRF. "These figures identify positive trends with some of the more common cancers, which probably reflect better detection and treatment," he said. "With continued research into cancer we hope to see further improvement in the future."



Early detection of breast cancer with mammography has improved survival rates Chris Bjornberg/SPL

LATEST STATISTICS show that Britain still lags behind Europe and the United States in terms of cancer survival but the reasons are not straightforward.

Comparisons between the UK and the US show a significantly better outlook for American patients, irrespective of what cancer they have. For some cancers the difference in survival rates can be enormous. The figures appear to show, for instance, that American men are twice as likely to survive for five years or more with prostate cancer than their British counterparts.

Specialists, however, warn that there are differences in the way statistics are gathered, which may at least partly explain why Britons appear to be at greater risk of dying from cancer.

In the case of prostate cancer, most men with tumours will die of other causes before their cancer has had time to spread. In the US they are classified as cancer survivors, which is less likely in the UK. This is why more than 80 per cent of men with prostate cancer are classified as being cured in the US but the "comparable" figure is just 40 per cent in the UK.

Another difference that can skew the statistics is that in Britain there is a national cancer registry which means that the figures are truly representative of the whole population. In the US, however, the cancer

BY STEVE CONNOR

statistics are collected by a few regional centres which means there is a greater chance of unrepresentative figures.

Professor Karol Sikora, an expert at the Hammersmith Hospital in London, nevertheless believes that the latest figures on cancer survival show that Britain is genuinely worse off than the US and many European countries.

"Most of us in cancer medicine believe we are falling behind. One of the reasons is the lack of investment in cancer care with the small number of specialists available compared with other European and north American countries," he said. "The biggest problem in this country is that you can get the best care in the world and sometimes you can get very poor quality care. Some get first-class treatment whereas others suffer delays in the system."

People in Britain still regard the NHS as a charity rather than something they have paid for and as a result put up with delays in treatment, he said. "There are waiting lists for breast-cancer treatment of over three months in certain areas of the country. That would not be tolerated in France, Germany or America," Professor Sikora said.

Britain, however, should experience improvements in cancer survival, he added.

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BECKTON OPENS DAM SATURDAY

Smoking doubles Alzheimer's risk

SMOKERS ARE more than twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease as non-smokers, according to a new study.

The finding, from a study of almost 7,000 men and women, is surprising as previous research has suggested that smoking provided some protection against dementia.

In the new study, which is larger than earlier ones, doctors in the Netherlands selected men and women without dementia aged 55 or older. After two years, 146 had developed dementia of all kinds, of whom 106 had Alzheimer's disease which was confirmed by neuropsychological assessment and, in some cases, a brain scan.

In addition to the doubled risk of both dementia and Alzheimer's disease, smokers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

also tended to develop dementia at a younger age.

The researchers, who report their findings in the *Lancet* medical journal, found that smokers who carry the Apoe 4 gene, which has been linked with Alzheimer's, were at no greater risk of developing the disease than non-smokers. However, those without the gene were at four times the risk.

One explanation of why Apoe 4 might protect smokers is that smoking alters brain chemistry in a way that counters some of the effects of Alzheimer's disease. However, it is also possible that smokers with Apoe 4 die young, so do not live long enough to develop the disease, the researchers say.

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How this rare wild plant is sacrificed to relieve a few bruises

A BOOM in the use of herbal remedies is putting some of Europe's wild flowers and plants at risk of extinction, according to a new report.

Over-collecting may be threatening at least 150 species, some of which are imported to the UK, says the report, from the World Wide Fund for Nature's wildlife trade monitoring programme, Traffic.

Use of herbal remedies and homeopathy is mushrooming across Europe. British sales of are up by one-quarter since 1992 to more than £60m annually, with nearly half of British CFS estimated to have referred patients for alternative treatments. Continental Europe is even keener: consumption is double the British rate in Germany, and three times higher in the Netherlands.

The problem, says the report, is that the vast majority of Europe's 1200-plus native medicinal plants that are used on a commercial basis each year are still taken from the wild. The trade is largely unmonitored, and many populations are now at risk.

Threatened species include Arnica or Mountain Tobacco, a bright yellow flower found over much of the continent which can be found, made into pills and creams, in most British chemists or health food shops;

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

and less common species, which can be found in specialist herbal stores, such as Bearberry, Bogbean, Yellow Gentian and Paeony. Wild liquorice is now threatened in some parts of Europe.

"There is no doubt that the long-term survival of some of these species is at risk," said Tom de Meulenaer, director of Traffic Europe. "Legislation to protect endangered species is present in almost all European countries, but one alarming trend is that conservation efforts usually begin only after a species is threatened."

The report calls for more monitoring of the trade with controls for particular species, and the establishment of protected areas for some of the most vulnerable. Cultivation schemes to take the pressure off some wild plant populations should also be encouraged, the report says.

Collecting medicinal plants from the wild in Britain on a large scale is fairly rare; two factories in Scotland process seaweed, and every June about 60 tons of elderflowers are picked for elderflower drinks.

But the British herbal trade relies largely on imports, with the UK one of the world's top

12 importers of medicinal plants, importing over 700 plants for the herbal medicine trade alone, of which 200 come from Europe. In much of the Continent, however, there is still a very strong tradition of wild-collecting.

Take Arnica, which some athletes swear by for the relief of bruises or the general aches and pains after taking part in competitive sports. One British nursery is known to grow a couple of acres of it, but the vast majority is imported, much of it gathered in the wild.

The annual European demand for the dried flowers of *Arnica montana*, the report says, is estimated at 50 tonnes, which would involve harvesting five or six times that amount of the fresh blooms. It is now listed as a threatened species in Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Portugal, the Netherlands and Germany.

The problem will be discussed at an international conference next week at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Europe's Medicinal And Aromatic Plants: Their Use, Trade and Conservation. Available from TRAFFIC International, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL.



Arnica (above) is much in demand as a remedy for damaged muscles (top left)

Unhurt car crash victim wins £1m

BY STEVE BOGGAN

A SECOND-HAND car salesman who was awarded £30,000 in damages after a car crash had the amount increased to more than £1m by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

In a ruling described by Lord Justice Brooke as "rare", the damages were increased 30-fold because the judge at an earlier hearing failed to take account of "very sophisticated psychiatric evidence" before ruling on the damages.

Raymond Arrowsmith, 49, a successful second-hand car salesman, suffered no serious physical injuries when his car was overturned and crushed by another vehicle in 1990, but his personality was severely impaired.

Previously, the married father of three children was a happy "workaholic" with an outgoing personality, but after the accident he lost interest in his work, his sex drive vanished and he moved to a French village in order not to have to speak to anyone. Eventually, four years after the accident, his marriage broke down.

The accident happened on the A127, as Mr Arrowsmith drove towards Southend, Essex, when a Volvo attempting to join the dual-carriageway skidded, hit a barrier, bounced across the road and hit Mr Arrowsmith's car.

Lord Justice Brooke said Mr Arrowsmith's car turned over and skidded on its roof for 80 yards. "The slide up the road seemed to go on forever, and he then found himself trapped by his seat belt, with the roof of the car collapsed on to the dashboard and surrounded by a very strong smell of petrol," said the judge.

"He had seen racing cars explode in his time, and he was convinced he was going to burn to death. He started kicking and punching at the door for what seemed to him like hours and he eventually managed to ease himself out on to the road."

Mr Arrowsmith, cut and bleeding, was flown to hospital by helicopter where he was found to be more affected by the psychological effects of the accident than any physical problems.

He was diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and one doctor

had described him as "sad and troubled, unable to cope with stress, introverted and prone to tearfulness". Friends said his character had changed and he was now "depressed and grumpy".

Lord Justice Brooke said that Mr Arrowsmith set up his first business in 1976 after working for 10 years with car dealers. Eventually he set up his own business at the Rayleigh Weir Roundabout, near Rayleigh, Essex. The judge said witnesses described Mr Arrowsmith during this period as a workaholic with a phenomenal memory who could make quick, instantaneous decisions.

He worked long hours, seven days a week and even before the accident his medical history "illustrated the all too frequent downside for a highly motivated successful man, namely an anxious personality and subject to stress".

In 1988, his last full year's trading, his business turned over £912,000, making a net profit of more than £236,000. Although he went back to work in a neck brace seven months after the accident, he stopped trading in April 1991 and has not worked since.

Last year, Deputy High Court Judge Simpson awarded Mr Arrowsmith a total of £30,565 in damages and interest, finding that the effects of his injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder lasted for only a year after the accident.

Lord Justice Brooke said that he had sympathy with Judge Simpson's decision but more weight should have been given to complex psychiatric evidence. Lord Justice Brooke, whose findings were endorsed by Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Hirst, said: "In my judgement the evidence from all sources, lay and medical, was overwhelmingly to the effect that the plaintiff was suffering from a continuing, moderately severe, depressive disorder."

The judge in the High Court should have reached the same conclusion, he said. The full damages, to be paid by the other driver's insurance company, are £1,020,725.

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Televised awards for best teachers

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

SIX HUNDRED of Britain's best teachers will be rewarded in a new £3m national awards scheme to be featured on prime-time television.

Lord Putnam, the Oscar-winning film producer behind the scheme, said the televised regional and national ceremonies would rival the attraction of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year*. The broadcasts, by the BBC, will include documentaries about each finalist.

Lord Putnam, a member of the Government's Education Standards Task Force, devised the scheme as a way of raising teachers' status at a time when applications to teacher training are falling. Lloyds TSB bank is supplying the cash prizes. Money will go to the school but the successful teachers will have a say in how it is spent.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, backed the scheme, which has the support of all political parties and the six main teaching unions. He said: "These awards

will ensure that people who are giving of themselves to young people every day are given in return the status and esteem they deserve."

Schools, governors and parents will be asked to submit nominations for 15 categories including best new teacher, primary and secondary teachers of the year, a lifetime achievement award and awards for teachers of children with special educational needs.

Four finalists from each category will compete for 10 regional awards and the regional winner will be in the national final in September 1999. The chairman of the judging panel will be Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI.

"No one here is pretending that these awards are the single answer to ending years of real neglect of teachers' work," Lord Putnam said. "But it is a beginning - most certainly the beginning of the end."

Tumim student anger

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

STUDENTS AT Oxford University are due to stage a silent demonstration today in protest at the departure of Sir Stephen Tumim from their college.

Undergraduates at St Edmund Hall have already passed a vote of no confidence in dons at the college after Sir Stephen, the former chief inspector of prisons, quit as principal last week.

Around 100 students are planning an hour-long sit-in on the front quad at the 13th-century college to call for a greater say in the way St Edmund Hall is run.

The Junior Common Room president, John Houghton, who represents undergraduates, sits on the college's governing body, but has to leave if dons debate "reserved" matters.

Students are angry at what they see as the secrecy surrounding Sir Stephen's departure, which followed "differences of opinion" within the college. St Edmund Hall's vice-principal has denied any rift between the former judge and academic staff.

SUZANNE MOORE

'Most of us, with the honourable exception of that suave of thugs, Alan Clark, are upset with the behaviour of the soccer hooligans'

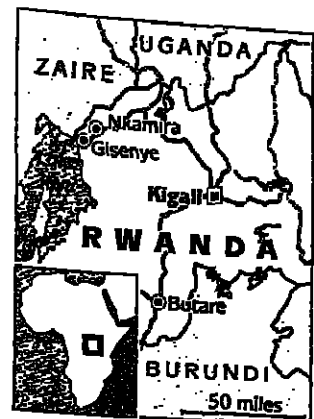
— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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Massacre sparks fears of a return to Rwandan genocide



RWANDAN GOVERNMENT soldiers were yesterday combing the border with Congo in pursuit of the Hutu rebels who carried out the latest atrocity in a mounting campaign of anti-government violence.

In a horrific echo of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, 50 men armed with machine-guns and machetes came down from the hills around Nkamira, 60 miles northwest of Kigali, on Wednesday and set about hacking and shooting the 6,000 Tutsis who were taking refuge

BY JAMES ROBERTS
and agencies in Kigali

in the camp. Twenty-five people died immediately and a further 15 yesterday, on the way to hospital in nearby Gisenyi.

The horrific and indiscriminate attack bore all the hallmarks of the genocide of 1994. According to Dr Leon Ngeruka at Gisenyi hospital, at least 55 children were among the 85 wounded.

Often without protection, the displaced Tutsis, most of whom

have returned from decades in exile from the former Hutu government, have been an easy target for the rebels.

In December, a similar rebel attack on the camp and a nearby army contingent left 71 people dead, including 48 rebels killed by government troops.

Last week, a shadowy group calling itself the Rwanda Liberation Army issued a statement in Nairobi, Kenya, claiming responsibility for a 7 June attack on another camp, 10 miles south of Gisenyi.

State-run Radio Rwanda said the troops were in search of the attackers, who had probably crossed from Congo where they are believed to maintain bases.

The rebels are former Hutu soldiers and militiamen who fled the country in 1994 in fear of reprisals for the 1994 genocide of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The three-month slaughter ended when Tutsi-led fighters won power in July 1994.

Authorities say the rebels

have killed thousands since 1996, when the Hutu militiamen slipped back into the country with more than 1 million Hutu refugees.

In the past three months, the rebels appeared to have stepped up attacks in response to a government campaign to turn the predominantly Hutu population against providing insurgents with food, money and shelter.

Since March, at least 25,000 Hutus have returned from the volcanic mountains on the Congolese border where they had been forced by the rebels crossing in and out of Rwanda.

Meanwhile the wheels of Rwandan justice are slowly grinding on, dealing with the 130,000 genocide suspects imprisoned in the country.

A Rwandan court on Tuesday convicted 10 people for their involvement in the Hutu-organised massacres. Three of those convicted were sentenced to death, six others to life in prison and one received 15 years. One of the suspects was acquitted.

The group was charged last month in the south-western town of Cyangugu with genocide, crimes against humanity, and destruction of property during the massacres.

A total of 130,000 genocide suspects have been imprisoned, many without formal charges. Around 350 have been convicted. A third of those were sentenced to death, with the first 22 executed on 24 April. Most of the others received prison sentences and a small number were acquitted.

US finally warms to old enemy Iran

AFTER TWO decades of hostility and bitterness, the US has signalled it is ready to improve relations with Iran and grant it a regional security role, so long as Iran observes "international standards of conduct".

The overture, which represents a major and long-considered policy shift by Washington, came in a speech by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, in New York on Wednesday night and was endorsed by President Clinton yesterday.

Addressing the Asia Society in New York - at one remove from the critical eye of Congressional hawks - Ms Albright said: "We are ready to explore further ways to build mutual confidence and avoid misunderstandings."

She called on "the Islamic Republic" to consider "parallel steps". "The gap between us remains wide," she conceded. "But it is time to test the possibilities for bridging this gap."

Her words, perhaps not coincidentally, came less than a week before football teams from the two countries were due to meet in the World Cup and amounted to the first direct response by the US to an overture from the newly elected Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, in February.

Mr Khatami had taken the politically bold decision to use a CNN television interview to extend an olive branch to the country his compatriots had dubbed "the Great Satan" and "evil for dialogue".

Since then, despite occa-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

sional hints from Mr Clinton that he favoured a gentler approach to Iran and gave the go-ahead for the resumption of cultural and educational exchanges, State Department and Pentagon officials continued to urge caution.

The State Department, whose diplomats were held hostage in the Tehran embassy



US secretary of State Madeleine Albright

in 1979, was especially wary. When pressed about a response to the Iranian overture, officials insisted for the best part of four months that they were studying Mr Khatami's interview, but wanted to see "deeds, not words".

Yesterday in a first reaction to the US shift, Iran's foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, turned those words back on

Washington. "Only coming with new words and political words is not enough. I believe words have to be followed by deeds," he said.

While decrying continued US opposition to a Caspian oil pipeline crossing Iran, he acknowledged that "Americans are coming to some new understandings".

With a nod to existing US foreign policy priorities and in clear anticipation of likely domestic opposition, Ms Albright had hedged her opening to Iran with a set of conditions. She called on Iran to halt support for terrorism and criticised its human-rights practices.

But she also welcomed Iran's decision to support any agreement that the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, made with Israel. Tehran's hostility towards Israel has been a big obstacle to the normalisation of US-Iranian relations.

The US policy shift appears to be part of a general reassessment of policy by Washington towards the Persian Gulf region. It has tacitly admitted its policy of confrontation with Iraq has failed for lack of international support, and recently agreed increased funding for Iraqi opposition groups.

Ms Albright's statement that Iran would be welcome to join multinational security operations "if it is willing to make a constructive contribution" showed that, with India and Pakistan now openly possessing a nuclear capability, the US is looking for new security ties in the region.

Netanyahu condemns Tehran's arms dealer

IT IS the worse case of its kind in the history of the state of Israel, says Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister. He demands the heaviest sentence for David Manbar, an Israeli businessman found guilty this week of making \$18m by selling Iran the raw materials for making mustard and nerve gas, as well as the equipment to make chemical warheads.

Mr Manbar, 53, did the deals between 1990 and 1995. The court said that, eight years ago, he met Dr Majid Agha-Sar, head of Iran's "chemical warfare project" and committed himself to providing materials and training for chemical warfare. Mr Manbar, a former paratrooper, remained the owner of the Jerusalem Hapoel basketball team, but lived mostly in Europe from 1985.

"I am guilty so are at least 200 people," said Mr Manbar. "Maybe I am guilty of naivete, but definitely not trying to harm the country."

The prosecutor said he supplied Iran with raw materials for the chemical weapons in 24 truckloads between 1990 and 1994. About a year-and-a-half ago he was secretly arrested when he landed in Israel.

Ignoring the fact that Mr Manbar's trial has not ended, Mr Netanyahu said yesterday: "This is a criminal who committed a terrible act the likes of which I cannot recall in the history of the state. He was arrested. He was tried. He was found guilty. I hope that he will pay a terrible price for his terrible deed." Amnon Zichroni, Mr Manbar's lawyer, described Mr Netanyahu's words as "vulgar interference in the judicial process".

Mr Manbar's perplexity about why he has been singled

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

out for supplying Iran with arms is understandable. In the first two years of the Iran-Iraq war Israel is estimated to have sold Iran \$100m of arms. When an Iranian F-4 Phantom jet defected to Saudi Arabia in 1984 it was found to contain parts shipped to Israel by the US.

Mr Manbar clearly got his timing wrong. At first he had supplied Israeli security with information about Iran, but they say he concealed some of his deals. Only in 1995 did they learn the true nature and extent of his business. He made a poor impact on the court. "His testimony was full of contradictions to say nothing of outright lies," said one of his judges.

The Iran-Iraq war saw the most sustained use of chemical weapons since the First World War. Most were used by Iraq. Iran said it had 50,000 casualties from gas, the fear of which demoralised the Iranian army in the latter stages of the war.

Although Israel was a major arms supplier to Iran during its war with Iraq, it has recently been putting pressure on America to stop Russia helping Iran develop a missile capable of hitting Israel. Mr Manbar evidently did not appreciate the switch in Israeli policy.

Given its losses to poison gas, it is likely that Iran's chemical weapons project is primarily aimed at acquiring a deterrent against Iraq.

In 1988 Iraq sent a veiled warning to Iran that it might put unconventional warheads on the missiles it was firing at Tehran. Iraq intended to send in fighter bombers first to smash windows to allow the poison gas to spread more easily. The Iraqi threat is believed to be why Iran accepted a ceasefire.

Jewels returned to the Jews of Trieste

MORE THAN 50 years after they were stolen by the Nazis, five sacks bulging with jewels, watches, coins, gold teeth and other personal belongings were finally returned yesterday to the Jews of Trieste.

A moving ceremony was held in Rome to mark the hand-over of the valuables - discovered gathering dust in Treasury vaults last year - to the Jewish community of the Italian city. The necklaces, rings, bracelets, cutlery, trays, family silver and some precious

stones were stolen from Jews in and around Nazi-occupied Trieste from 1943-45.

Many of the city's Jews perished in nearby Risiera di San Sabba, the only German Nazi death camp in Italy. It was from San Sabba that "these wretched objects were taken away, snatched from the necks, wrists, of children, of the elderly," said Trieste's Chief Rabbi, Umberto Piperno.

The objects were found stashed in five crates in a Treasury vault in 1997.



Jordanians cooling off in a park in the centre of Amman yesterday, as temperatures reached 41C Ali Jarekji

Holbrooke climbs back onto political ladder with UN post

TWO US officials took steps up the ladder of political power yesterday, with expectations high that both are set for greater things.

Richard Holbrooke, the diplomatic troubleshooter who brokered the Dayton accord in Bosnia, is to be America's new ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr Holbrooke, a pugnacious and doughty fighter, is regarded by his opponents as a publicity seeker and a bull in a china shop.

He is particularly unpopular with European officials who dealt with Bosnia. They say Mr Holbrooke railroaded them into ideas they did not support and ignored their opinions.

But his supporters point out that European officials had failed miserably to do anything to end the fighting in Bosnia, and that fine manners and elegant turns of phrase did little to convince President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr Holbrooke has been

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

working for a bank for the past few years, since supposedly retiring from his job as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs in 1996.

In practice, he has frequently been on call for the State Department for every situation, from Bosnia to Cyprus. The post of UN ambassador is a cabinet job, the latest advance for a man who first held office under President Carter in the 1970s.

Mr Holbrooke was a candidate to be Secretary of State to President Clinton, and may yet hold that job if and when Vice-President Al Gore becomes President in 2000.

Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, was reportedly wary of bringing in Mr Holbrooke at such a senior level. There is a risk that he will develop as a rival to her. Mr Holbrooke will arrive in New York at a key time, when the UN is



President Bill Clinton with Richard Holbrooke (above) and Bill Richardson Reuters

preparing a resolution on the war in Kosovo.

Bill Richardson, Mr Holbrooke's predecessor at the UN, becomes Energy Secretary. It is speculated that the former New Mexico Congressman

could be a candidate for governor of his native state, and is even mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate to Mr Gore. Despite his name, he is one of the few Hispanic Americans to gain a cabinet post.

Tobacco giants in the US kill off bill

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE TOBACCO industry has won its fight to destroy legislation in the United States Congress that would have raised cigarette prices and regulated their sale. After millions of dollars were pumped into the fight against the bill, Republicans killed it off in key procedural votes on Wednesday night.

But President Bill Clinton signalled that the Democrats would use the issue in this year's congressional elections. "I want the tobacco lobby, and its allies on Capitol Hill, to know that from my point of view this battle is far from over," Mr Clinton said.

Would there, he was asked, be any political consequences? "I certainly hope there will be, and there should be," the President replied.

Under the bill, cigarette prices would have risen by \$1.10 (66p) a pack, which it was estimated would slash the number of teenage smokers. That was always a slightly dubious proposition: it would have raised the price of a pack of cigarettes in Washington, for instance, to roughly \$3.75 (about £2.25), or two-thirds the price of cigarettes in Britain, where teenage smoking is still a big problem. But it would also have allowed the US authorities to regulate tobacco as a drug, and restrict tobacco advertising.

The vote is a great disappointment for the President, who had backed the bill, and for Senator John McCain, a Republican of Arizona, the sponsor of the bill. But the measure had faced considerable opposition from the tobacco industry, which had wanted a much toned-down piece of legislation.

The US turned to Congress as part of a deal between the states and manufacturers whereby the legal liabilities of the tobacco industry would be limited if they accepted regulation and a price rise. The bill that emerged came as a nasty surprise to the manufacturers, and they set out to kill it.

As well as as launching a \$40m (£24m) advertising campaign, the tobacco industry has turned on the taps for members of Congress. It has given about \$12m to the Republicans since they took over Congress in 1994, according to the Center for Responsive Politics; it gave under \$2m to the Democrats.

Public Citizen, another independent think-tank, found that the 34 senators who voted most of the time in favour of tobacco interests received seven times as much money from the industry as the senators who usually voted in favour of the legislation. As ever in politics, money counts.

The Republicans had painted the bill - which would have cost the industry \$516m over five years - as simply a piece of taxation that would have hit cigarette smokers, and especially the poor. They had also objected to the potential gains for lawyers, not something that usually bothers Congress.

The response from the President and the Democrats makes it clear that they will use this to portray the Republicans as corrupt and sleazy, putting the interests of the tobacco industry above those of children.

The story is by no means over: There is a possibility that another tobacco bill will be put together, although its chances look slim.

If legislation to cap the liability of the industry is not passed, then the problem may simply shift back to the courts, which have handed out multi-million dollar packages against the cigarette manufacturers.

Racist burning puts a village on trial

IN THE fat annals recording racist attacks in eastern Germany since reunification, Dolgenbrodt merits but a footnote. On 1 November 1992, two days before the arrival of some 80 African asylum-seekers, the former pioneer resort that was to house them burnt down.

Nobody was hurt. A neo-Nazi youth was caught, put on trial and eventually convicted for arson. Case closed.

Yet six years after the long-forgotten event – a barely visible spark in the chain of fire that swept through refugee hostels of the east in those days – Dolgenbrodt is to get a chapter of its own, under the heading "Collective Guilt".

Today a florist, an electrician, a heating engineer and a building worker are scheduled to go on trial for plotting the demolition job, hiring the skinhead and supplying him with the petrol bomb. With them will stand in the dock – though in spirit only – all 304 of the village's inhabitants.

Prosecutors will try to establish who knew and what they knew of the conspiracy, the whip-round to raise the arsonist's fee – even neo-Nazis must make a living – and the subsequent cover-up. The villagers are keeping mum. "One doesn't speak about such things," says Dolgenbrodt's mayor, Karl Pfannenschwarz.

The only witness is the arsonist, Silvio Jaskowski, who has turned state's evidence in order to stay out of jail. The skinhead's account must be corroborated with the florist's confession, who cracked after

BY IMRE KARACS
in Dolgenbrodt

many denials last year, revealing the outlines of the plot.

The florist, Thomas Oste, has pointed the finger at four others in the community.

He himself had planned the attack, hired Jaskowski, and paid him off. The job of Hans-Jürgen Schmidt, the heating engineer, was – appropriately – to supply the Molotov cocktails' main ingredient. Mr Schmidt's step-son Marco drove the arsonist to the pick-up point. Jaskowski had a helper named Renato Paschke from the nearby town of Königs Wusterhausen. The electrician, Gerd Graefen, who was allegedly worried about the effect of refugees on property prices, put up part of the money.

The project cost the people of Dolgenbrodt DM14,000 altogether; the initial DM2,000 fee and DM12,000 more extorted by Jaskowski during his trial. He still sang like a canary, though the villagers denied all.

There is no disputing, however, how Dolgenbrodt felt about its unwanted guests. When they heard about plans to dump refugees in their midst, the locals put up fierce resistance. Petitions were organised, a resolution passed at the district council, but all to no avail. "The opinions of the population were ignored," says the mayor.

"The people were afraid," he continues. "At first we heard we were going to get gypsies from Romania. Only later did we find out that they would have been black Africans. People



The ruins of a house for African refugees in Dolgenbrodt and, above, Gerd Graefen, one of five men charged with the attack

were worried about gypsies coming here, because it's known all over the world that gypsies break into houses."

It was this angst, the mayor explains, that motivated the

arsonists. "There was no xenophobia here, only fear. If it had been refugees from Bosnia – women and children, for instance – then we would have done everything to support the

asylum-seekers." No one was more afraid than Mr Oste, the florist who was destined by some bureaucratic quirk to become the neighbour of 80 gypsies/Africans. Mr Oste is a man

given to worrying. His simple two-storey house is set in the back of an acre of acacias and neat lawn. The gate is fastened with two chains. Between his house and the trellis fence sep-

arating him from that unspeakable place next door, a 30-yard wide strip of thickets bars intruders. There is no bell on the gate. There is little sign of life inside, either, until three youths on bikes emerge. "Get lost," is one of the more polite greetings offered by a lad of about 18, Mr Oste's son.

They seem like nice people, says the neighbour on the other side. Not that he knows them that well. A "Guten Tag", that's all. The neighbour, Dieter Schmitz, has only lived in Dolgenbrodt for three years, but finds the locals very friendly. He can vouch for Dolgenbrodt: "It's no more racist than any other village." Why, he has heard there is even a foreigner living here – a Dutchman.

Unlike in many of the towns nearby, this backwater, an hour's drive from Berlin, is free of skinheads and their hate-filled graffiti. Nestling in a ring of forests overlooking three lakes, most of the houses are modest but cheerful. Dolgenbrodt is the sort of place where lower middle-class people

move to bring up their children. In the summer and at week-ends the tiny cottages fill up with holiday-makers, the population swells to 1,000, and the little marina becomes animated with anglers.

In this community of decent people, Mr Oste and his fellow conspirators are respected citizens. Everybody is happy to show directions to their houses, though no one is prepared to admit any close relationship, or of having been at home on the night in question.

The plot adjacent to Mr Oste's tranquil domain is silent and empty. The gate is wide open, part of the fence has fallen down, but there is no other trace of human presence among the weeds that have consumed the foundations. It has become a caterpillars' paradise. The sign of the children's summer camp has been left to rust in peace. On one side lies a pile of timber, untouched by the inferno.

All that is left of the mainly timber building is a small chunk of masonry tossed in front of the gate, as if by way of warning. No one ever comes here, and nothing will ever be built here. No foreigner will ever seek refuge in Dolgenbrodt.

The mayor, a retired lawyer who did not live in the village in 1992, thinks that is where the matter should rest.

"It is all very regrettable what happened, but it happened," he says. "Nothing can be changed. We must get on with our lives in this beautiful place."

IN BRIEF

Poles attack Communism

POLAND'S parliament on Thursday adopted a resolution condemning communism and holding the former communist party responsible for its "many crimes and offences". The ex-communist Left opposed the resolution as counter-productive. Since the demise of communism in 1989, no former leader has been convicted of wrongdoing, leaving the wounds of the past open.

Boris praises Bush cuisine

THE RUSSIAN President, Boris Yeltsin, told the former US president George Bush that Americans do not know how to cook, but said Mr Bush's wife Barbara was an exception. "I think Americans in general are bad cooks and don't know how to eat," Yeltsin said.

Two beheaded for child rape

TWO SAUDI men were beheaded yesterday for kidnapping and raping a young boy. The men were executed in the holy city of Mecca in western Saudi Arabia. Their executions bring to 11 the number of people beheaded in the kingdom this year.

Hunt for bear after killing

FINNISH police, helped by hunters and a helicopter, plan to track down a bear which killed a jogger in the first known lethal bear attack in Finland this century, officials said.

The jogger, a 43-year-old man, was found dead early on Thursday by a search party in a forest outside the town of Ruokolahti, near the border with Russia.

Racist fears in Switzerland

SWITZERLAND'S federal police force is warning of a flood of racist propaganda into the country.

An internal report said: "Trade in far-right propaganda is booming." The report identified the import of anti-Semitic, racist and pro-Nazi recordings, for instance on CD-ROMs and film, as the greatest problem.

Some 400 such recordings were seized in 45 police operations last year, compared to eight operations in 1996, it said.

Women to get equality in French politics

BY JOHN LICKFIELD
in Paris

THE famous words carved on all French public buildings – Liberty, Equality, Fraternity – may have to make room for a fourth constitutional promise: Parity for women politicians. A

The French government plans to change the constitution later this year to encourage "equal access" for women to politics and senior civil service jobs. Socialist members of parliament have already gone one step further. They have drafted changes to electoral law which would demand parity – i.e. absolutely equal numbers of men and women – in lists of candidates for all parties at the European elections next year and the regional elections in 2003.

The proposed change, partly fulfilling an election promise made last year by the Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is highly controversial, dividing opinion on both Right and Left. The French constitution already guarantees equality for all citizens; it has never previously distinguished between men and women.



Former prime Minister Edith Cresson

During the general election campaign last May, Mr Jospin promised a legal guarantee of political parity between the sexes.

At the insistence of the Gaullist President, Jacques Chirac, the word "parity" will not appear in the proposed new wording. Article Three of the constitution of the Fifth Republic would be re-worded to "favour equal access" of men and women "to elected and official positions". The word "parity" appears only in the preamble to the amendment, which should go either to a pub-

lic referendum or a congress of both houses of parliament this autumn.

Most women politicians in both left- and right-wing parties welcomed the change yesterday. Ségolène Royal, the education minister, said it was "a moment of great historical importance".

But the well-known feminist writer and activist Elisabeth Badinter said the amendment would "introduce biology into politics". It would "radically alter" the spirit of the French Republic, based on the concept of "citizenship", which allowed "any other human being to represent all the others".

Women would be the sufferers in the long run, she said. It would be assumed that women politicians held office because the law demanded it, not because of their own abilities. To this argument, French women politicians retort: "Never mind the principles, look at the reality."

Until last year France had a smaller proportion of women in parliament than any other European country. Women were not even allowed to vote in France until 1945. There are now 60 women deputies in the National Assembly, or just over 10 per cent, which is more respectable but behind Britain (17 per cent) and most other EU countries.

Even this total has been achieved only because Mr Jospin's Socialist Party introduced its own policy last year of insisting that 30 per cent of its candidates should be women.

In 1996, 10 prominent French women from both sides of the political divide, including Simone Veil, the liberal former health minister, and Edith Cresson, briefly and disastrously a Socialist Prime Minister, decided enough was enough.

They called for constitutional changes to encourage a better gender balance in parliament. For the barriers against French women in politics to be so great, "they wrote in their manifesto, 'there must be in our civic history and culture, something more rooted than simple prejudice'."

DONALD MACINTYRE

'The dilution of the Low Pay Commission's recommendations on youth pay follow a good old-fashioned Cabinet row'

FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

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Prison's hard sell sounds good to America's forgotten city



The Mojave desert, an unlikely place to make a fortune

Dave Cole/Ret

THE real secret of the American West is of a land tamed not by cowboys or wagon trains, but property developers. The same people who put up the Hollywood sign (it originally read Hollywoodland) and built Los Angeles' ever-expanding suburbs are now busy subdividing the Colorado Rockies with vast new towns built round ski resorts and golf courses.

But sometimes their visions get the better of them. At the height of the 1950s post-war housing boom, a Czech-born university sociologist named Nathan Mendelsohn came to California to build his own city of dreams. Backed by property investors he bought 32,000 acres of the Mojave Desert and mapped out a vast metropolis 30 miles across, laying roads, power and water lines to thousands of lots.

People still remember the radio jingle: "Buy a piece of the Golden State. You'll be sitting pretty when you come to California City." Tens of thousands of people arrived by bus and plane and bought their future home sites. To this day California City, by land area, is

AMERICAN TIMES CALIFORNIA CITY

the third largest city in the state. But where Mendelsohn talked of a million people or more, there were - at the last count - only 8,888. Two hours drive north of Los Angeles, 10 miles off the highway that leads north to Death Valley, the people in this place dream of a McDonald's.

Now California City sees its chance of winning a prosperity that has so far eluded it: a big company is arriving in town, promising 400 solid jobs, a steady employment and tax base. True, a 2,000-bed private jail might send some communities into a fit of Nimbysism. But not California City, which for 40 years has been a city waiting to happen. People are literally praying for the prison. "We are eager for them to come," said one local pastor, Ron Sparks.

Last year the Corrections Corporation of America, the US private prison giant that runs nearly 70 prisons world-wide,

including Blakenhurst in the UK, announced plans to build near California City, to a chorus of approval from the town's residents. The groundbreaking ceremony last month was a full-dress affair, with proud speeches, prayers and lunch for 200 people or more. CCA has often been welcomed by small struggling towns, but never, the company officials say, with quite such enthusiasm. In the teeth of opposition from the powerful local prison officers' union, CCA is building the prison on spec. CCA is bidding to house some of California's 150,000 inmates. Crime is falling, but the market for prisons, CCA insists, remains strong.

Pick up a copy of the California City street map, and a generous grid of avenues and curvy cul-de-sacs unfolds. Costly named neighbourhoods fan out from the 18-hole golf course and from Central Park, equipped with a lake where



Mendelsohn dropped from a helicopter a barrel of water from Central Park, New York.

But the few hundred homes and shops are mainly clustered along California City Boulevard, a generous four-lane main street with no traffic or traffic lights. Once you turn off it, the tarmac runs quickly into dirt roads and eventually turns into desert. The map is mostly a sad joke. You can buy a small house here for the price of a large car.

But locals insist that the prison is driving property prices up at a time when real estate values in California gen-

erally have taken off. After all, many other cities have flourished in the Western deserts. "Palm Springs had movie stars," said Patricia Gordon, a local real estate agent who moved here with her husband in 1960, drawn by Mendelsohn's dream. "Las Vegas had gambling."

California City had the nearby Edwards Air Force Base, but that was hit by the 1990s "downsizing" of the military, and it never managed to attract big industry anyway.

In his office, Mayor Larry Adams, the headmaster of one of California City's two schools, reels off the figures.

Beyond the salaries for the prison staff and guards, 2,000 prisoners means providing 6,000 meals a day, plus a stream of expenditures on cleaning and medical supplies. The annual property tax on the \$100m building alone will be about \$1 million. But it is the prison that really inspires hope. "There are many of us," said Gordon, "who have worked a long time to help this city do what was promised."

TIM CORNWELL

Spin doctor turns war into peace

BY ROBERT FISK
Pristina

AW AND ORDER. That's what was about. Peace, dialogue, human rights. Listening to Alexander Vucic yesterday, with his baby face, thick lips and quick smile, you had to shake yourself to remember whom you were listening to.

Mr Vucic was against "terrorism", he was against violence. All he wanted was negotiation, talks, good will, financial assistance for returning Albanian refugees. All he wanted was peace.

Mr Vucic, it should be said - despite his smart blue blazer, with his shiny buttons - was not long ago the spokesman for Vojislav Seselj, among the cruellest of Serbia's barbarians in Bosnia, leader of the infamous White Eagles Militia which was to Bosnian Muslims what Attila the Hun was to Western Europe. Rape, murder, mass execution and a lot of pillage. Those were the activities we once associated with Seselj's Jeds.

But yesterday there was the eloquent Mr Vucic, now Minister of Information in the Serbian government and number three in Mr Seselj's Serbian Radical Party, lecturing us on civic duty, constitutional rights, patriotism and non-violence.

Of course, there are those who now claim Attila wasn't such a bad guy. So, here we were being welcomed by Mr Seselj's right-hand man in a room decorated with brass candleabras and post-modernist art, the red, white and blue flags of Serbia and Federal Yugoslavia giving his words the necessary gravitas.

Perhaps the Balkans has this effect on everyone, an amnesia in which evil turns into innocence, while oppressed minorities become "terrorist" hands. Mr Vucic should know. He had just been touring Kosovo, reassuring Serbs there that



After arriving in Albania, a young refugee from the conflict crawls over sleeping soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army to play with a Kalashnikov rifle

Epa Photo

the government would protect them - indeed that it would look after every citizen "regardless of their religion", in other words, Muslims.

Now he needed to tell us what Serbia wanted. Yes, it was dialogue - and as soon as possible - with the Albanian minority. Yes, "minority".

Mr Vucic regards Kosovo as just part of Serbia, a province whose 90 per cent Albanian majority are a mere 16 per cent minority in the whole of Serbia. And it was only those pesky Albanian "terrorists" - as usual, we were treated to the word

"terrorists" more than 50 times in less than an hour - who did not want to participate in the talks that would solve the "problems" of Kosovo.

Needless to say, there was no mention of Serbia's suppression of Albanian autonomy in Kosovo nine years ago.

"There is nothing more important than human rights," Mr Vucic informed us. "It is important to realise that the representatives of the Serbian government and the police forces are responsible for keeping peace and order. And the government of the Republic of

Serbia is ready to talk with representatives of the Albanian national side."

But hadn't the burnings and killings of the past months taken things a little too far for that? Was Serbia aware, I asked politely, that large areas of Kosovo were under the control of armed Albanian separatists?

"I'm pleased someone asked this question," Mr Vucic replied with a horrid smile. "That is good justification for the presence of Serbian government forces on this territory."

No, he had not heard of Serbian police desertions. And

there was no reason to use comparisons with Bosnia and - here we held our breath - with "the vocabulary of the situation in Srebrenica".

Mr Vucic said the name without emotion in the midst of this creamy propaganda. It was like finding a splinter of glass in a piece of chocolate.

Srebrenica - abandoned by its US protectors in 1995, its thousands of Bosnian Muslim men slaughtered by Serb gunmen - was a reminder of just what the White Eagles and their friends were capable.

Then there was the question

of those Serb mothers who had arrived in Pristina to campaign for the withdrawal of their soldier and policeman sons from Kosovo. It was Christiane Amanpour of CNN who dared to ask this question.

"Every mother is very much worried about her children," Mr Vucic assured her. So why, asked Ms Amanpour, had Serb mothers been doused by police water cannons for their pains? "Don't worry about Serb mothers - these are our mothers and our children," she was told. "We will take care of them."

He then suggested that Ms

Amanpour had not told the truth in a report she made from the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale in 1993. Of course, being accused of lying by the Serb Radical Party is akin to receiving a coveted press award for integrity, but this was, as they say, a bit rich.

However, on he went. Foreign journalists mimicked the words of their government but the Serbs respected freedom of the Press.

A real pro, this Mr Vucic - and you can be sure to be hearing much more from him in the coming days.

Malay leader turns on the West

BY MARCUS TANNER

MALAYSIA'S RULING party launched a fierce attack on foreigners yesterday as the source of the country's economic collapse.

Mohamad Mahathir, the combative Prime Minister who has made a name for his fierce attacks on foreign currency speculators, did not speak at the opening session.

It was left to his deputy and finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, to tell the 2,000 delegates that "attacks of outsiders" were the reason why the Malaysian ringgit had slumped in value. "Our currency has slid because of attacks from foreign currency speculators," he said.

Mr Anwar, dressed in a traditional Malay shirt and songkok cap, said that Malaysia confronted its most critical test since independence from Britain in 1957. In a ringing endorsement of Mr Mahathir, he called on the party to "unite as one front under our leadership headed by our Prime Minister".

Mr Anwar at one point was reported to have had differences with Mr Mahathir. There was no sign of that yesterday. "If there are foreign media or outsiders who try to create conflict among our leaders, let us not be influenced," he said.

Echoing Mr Mahathir, Mr Anwar said that foreign currency speculators were to blame for 35 per cent devaluation of the ringgit since the Asian currency crisis began in Thailand last July.

The call to rally round Mr Mahathir's leadership was given concrete expression with moves to forbid any contest for the party's top two positions. If the motion passes, it will shield Mr Mahathir and Mr Anwar even further from criticism. In defence of the motion, party officials said that a political battle for the party leadership would only make the unstable economic position even worse. The next poll was scheduled for 1999.

Mr Mahathir earlier said he did not want a no-contest motion. In an interview with the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, published yesterday, he said: "If anyone wants to challenge me, he can... but I don't think anyone will."

In a rare sign of dissent, a party youth leader at the congress ignored the injunctions against controversies and criticised corruption, nepotism and cronyism. "Nepotism will bring Malaysia to its knees," Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, head of the party's youth wing, said.

Malaysia's economy shrank by 1.8 per cent in the first quarter of 1998, compared with 6.9 per cent growth last year. The economic downturn is expected to result in massive job losses. In Washington, the World Bank yesterday was expected to approve a \$300m (£181m) loan to help stimulate the economy.

Czechs put faith in left to save economy

BY IMRE KARACS

DRIFTING RUDDERLESS since the collapse of the conservative government last year in a series of financial scandals, the Czech Republic is about to lurch to the left. In elections today and tomorrow, the Social Democrats are expected to capture the highest number of seats in the new parliament, completing the cycle that began with the Velvet Revolution nine years ago.

Since his ejection from office last November, Vaclav Klaus, the architect of the Czech model of Thatcherite economics, has tried to mount a comeback, but with mixed results. His Civic Democratic Party is expected to emerge after the elections as the second biggest force, but there are few coalition volunteers on the right.

Mr Klaus and his party are discredited and his economic model is in disarray. His ultra-liberal creed once held up by international financiers as a marvel is now denounced by the same people as a sham.

In his last months of stew-

ardship, Mr Klaus cobbled together two austerity budgets which failed to arrest the slide. The currency collapsed and foreign investors have been fleeing the stock market ever since.

Growth has slowed to 1 per cent, wages are in free fall, while unemployment has taken off. Czechs are lagging behind Poland and Hungary, the former Warsaw Pact countries heading for Nato membership next year, and the European Union early next century.

The reason, according to Milos Zeman, leader of the Social Democrats, is that instead of a free market, Mr Klaus had created an "economy of mafias". "Coupons" in state property were handed over to the citizens, who sold them to investment funds. The latter were acquired by state-owned banks, where they remain, because the government failed to carry out any real privatisation.

On the plus side, this meant that Czechs did not experience the factory closures inflicted upon their neighbours. On the minus side, somebody must now tackle the problem of inefficient companies.

Mr Klaus also stands accused of failing to curb the excesses of his rapacious cohorts. The result is the Czech Republic has become a playground of home-grown oligarchies with connections to people in the government. Mr Klaus's party took a piece of the action.

By virtue of having been kept out of power all these years, Mr Zeman's Social Democrats are reasonably clean - a quality now being sought, above all else, by the voters. Latest polls put the Social Democrats, who have no links to the Communist regime, at about 26 per cent. The single-issue Pensioners' Party, the most straight-forward coalition partner on the left, may get up to 10 per cent.

THE unsolved bombing of the African National Congress offices in London 16 years ago is to come under examination by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), it was learned yesterday.

No one was injured in the 1982 bombing of the ANC's Pantown Street offices, one of the exiled movement's most important centres of activity, but the destruction of the bulk of its records severely hampered its work. Several earlier break-ins were also assumed to be the work of South African agents. The London bombing, and the murder in Paris of the exiled ANC activist Dulcie September, were the most violent acts committed in Europe during the secret struggle against the opponents of apartheid.

Although there have been numerous references - during two years of testimony to the TRC - to undercover activity abroad by the apartheid government, the Commission has not so far held hearings on the

subject. It is understood, however, that two of the previous regime's most notorious agents, Eugene de Kock and Craig Williamson, have applied for amnesty in connection with the London bombing, and will testify later this year.

De Kock is serving several life sentences for the torture and murder of ANC supporters at the Vlakplaas secret base; Mr Williamson, known as apartheid's "superspion", infiltrated exile groups in Europe and has admitted involvement in sending booby-trapped parcels which killed several people. In 1995 he said he had led a three-member group which carried out the London bombing, and that the device, which had been sent to London in a diplomatic bag, was assembled at South Africa House, Trafalgar Square.

Yesterday the Commission adjourned after more than a week of sensational evidence about the previous regime's chemical and biological warfare programme, including the production of poisoned umbrellas and bicycle pumps, research into the use of drugs such as ecstasy in crowd control, and attempts to limit the fertility of the black population or to find a bacterium which would harm only black people. The head of the programme, Dr Wouter Basson, a senior military physician who held the rank of brigadier, was due to testify yesterday, but failed to appear.

The acting chairman, Dr Ntsebeza, said Dr Basson had broken an agreement to present himself by noon or file a legal challenge to the Commission's subpoena. But the TRC, already wrestling with a challenge to its authority by the former president, P.W. Botha, is likely to wait before deciding to prosecute Dr Basson. The case against Mr Botha for refusing to testify has been delayed until August.

The final witness, former military surgeon-general Dr

Neil Knobel, disclosed yesterday that 20 barrels of dangerous substances, including ecstasy and cocaine, had been dumped in the south Atlantic from a search and rescue aircraft after South Africa signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1993. He also said tens of thousands of dollars was spent in bribes to obtain materials for the programme, including the purchase of methaqualone, a substance used in the making of amphetamines, from Croatia.

Dr Knobel, who held the rank of lieutenant-general, faced fierce questioning from the Commission about his failure to inquire into the activities of Dr Basson, who was nominally under his command. He said that it was only towards the end of 1993, when he learned that the British and American governments were about to challenge South Africa's compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, that he became aware of the extent of the programme, and of Dr Basson's part in it.

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BUSINESS

Sales add to rates pressure

BRIEFING

Pay warning falls on deaf ears

EARNINGS ARE rising at a rate too fast for comfort. Now past the 5 per cent barrier, pay growth is likely to trigger another increase in the cost of borrowing. Yet this message from both the Bank of England and the Chancellor is falling on deaf ears, while at the same time the fall in unemployment is tailing off. Diane Coyle explains why Britain needs a strategy for "making pay work" as well as "making work pay". Page 22

Walls steps down at Albert Fisher



STEPHEN WALLS (left) is to step down as non-executive chairman of the Albert Fisher food group at the end of the company's financial year in August, ending a tenure characterised by a series of profits warnings and dramatic share underperformance. Mr Walls handed over responsibility for operations to Neil England, chief executive in early 1997 and became non-executive chairman earlier this year. The company said it is currently in the process of recruiting a new non-executive chairman.

Micro Focus buys US rival

MICRO FOCUS, the software development group, yesterday struck a blow for UK information technology companies with the \$300m acquisition of INTERSOLV, its US-based rival.

Micro Focus said it had opted for an all-share merger, rather than a cash deal, because of the relative valuations of the two companies' shares. "The fact is that software companies are now more highly valued in the UK than in the US," said chief executive Martin Waters.

Analysts welcomed the deal, pointing out that Micro Focus had negotiated a good price. However, Micro Focus shares fell 67.5p to 432.5p as US investors exploited differences between the two companies' share prices.

Investment column, page 21

SOARING HIGH STREET sales in May made a further interest-rate rise look more likely yesterday. Retail sales volumes leapt 1.7 per cent last month, confounding expectations that demand would continue its downward trend.

Hints from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that he was among the majority of the Monetary Policy Committee voting for a rate rise earlier this month added to the interest-rate gloom.

Mr George told MPs on the Treasury Committee that inflation had been "pretty stubborn" and added that if last

BY DIANE COYLE
AND LEA PATERSON

week's change of tack on public spending resulted in looser fiscal policy, the MPC would have to take a tougher stance on interest rates.

Differences in opinion between the members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) were evident, however. DeAnne Julius, a fellow member, said rates were too high and warned of the risk of recession.

Yet the City concluded that the MPC would tilt in favour of an increase in borrowing costs

at one of its next meetings. These fears took the pound up three pence and back to its highest level since 1 May, approaching the DM3 level.

In written evidence to MPs, the Governor said the growth rate of domestic demand was "well above" the rate "which could be sustained without giving rise to inflationary pressures". He saw "very little likelihood" of deflation.

Mr George fanned speculation about his voting behaviour at this month's meeting. He said it would not be embarrassing if the Governor were to vote with the minority of MPC

members, but added: "If there were a majority of people who were clearly taking one view than that would weigh very substantially."

City economists have speculated that Mr George switched from the doves to the hawks to vote for this month's rate rise.

Dr Julius told MPs she was not persuaded that the economy had exceeded its capacity constraints. The only MPC member who voted for a rate cut in May, she added that monetary policy was too tight.

"There is certainly a risk of recession," she said. Most economists predict an

uncomfortable period of slower growth and greater inflationary pressure ahead. "The trend on the high street is slowing, although not dramatically. But the higher earnings growth means it would now be odd if the Bank did not raise rates," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe.

Official statistics earlier this week showed a jump in pay growth past the 5 per cent barrier, and the first rise for two years in people claiming unemployment benefit.

Retail sales volumes jumped 1.7 per cent in May, mostly because of a whopping 8.7 per cent

gain in sales of clothing and footwear. Year-on-year growth jumped to 4.6 per cent from 4 per cent in April. The volume of sales in the latest three months was 4.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Separately, lending figures from the high street banks and building societies suggested that activity in the housing market dipped last month. Their combined lending amounted to £1.6bn, down from £1.6bn the previous month.

Barclays yesterday joined the ranks of banks announcing higher mortgage rates, up from 8.7 per cent to 8.85 per cent.

Far East crisis: US move bolsters Japanese currency but the effect could be short-term

Yen rescue prompts surge in Asian shares

ASIAN FINANCIAL markets celebrated yesterday the successful intervention by the United States and Japan to push up the value of the ailing Japanese yen. But doubts swiftly emerged about whether the move would have any lasting effect.

In Tokyo, shares posted a 4.4 per cent gain after the currency markets gave the yen its biggest one-day boost in four years. The Nikkei 225 index ended 646 points higher at 15,361.54.

From a Wednesday close of some 142 yen to the US dollar, the Japanese currency strengthened to around ¥136.7 to the dollar during Asian trading.

But it later slipped back past the ¥137 level as doubts emerged in the currency markets about whether the Japanese government was ready to implement dramatic policy reforms at last.

Stephen Hannah, head of research at ICB in London, said: "You have to wonder what in the end it will deliver. You cannot conclude yesterday was the turning point."

The markets are now nervously awaiting the outcome of an urgent meeting of G7 officials in Tokyo this weekend. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, pledged "bold" action. But he gave no indication of what it might be, and said there had been no deal with the US in return for its assistance in the currency markets.

Record one-day gains were recorded in stock markets across the region. The biggest

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong AND
DIANE COYLE in London

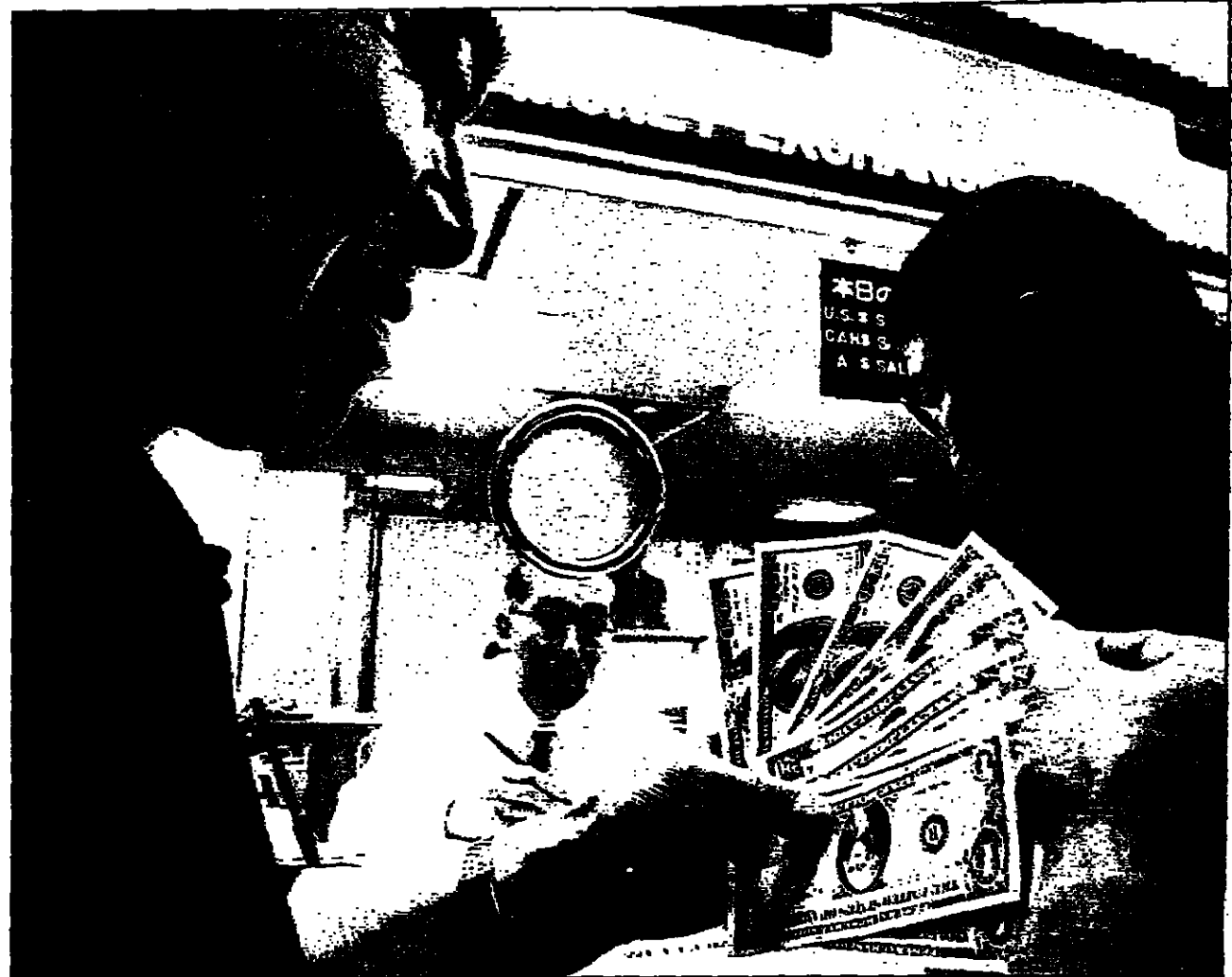
rise was seen in Japan's neighbour South Korea, where stock prices rose more than 7 per cent. In Hong Kong the blue chip Hang Seng Index gained more than 6 per cent. Both the Philippine and Thai stock markets posted marginally greater advances.

The exact size of the US and Japanese government intervention in the markets is unknown, but probably amounted to more than \$2bn. It was the first time in seven years the US had intervened in support of a foreign currency.

There was strong evidence that Washington's move came to forestall a devaluation by China. Chinese leaders have been dropping less than subtle hints about their unease over the falling value of the yen and the problems it is causing the Chinese economy.

The joint US-Japanese intervention in the market, and the hope that the Japanese government will finally deliver on Mr Hashimoto's promises of drastic action to tackle his country's economic problems, appeared to have persuaded investors that the free-fall of the yen is over, at least for a while.

Andrew Fung, of Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Hong Kong, said he expected the value of the yen to stabilise in the next two weeks and that it would trade in a range of ¥124-140 to the US dollar. "The market is talking the US intervention very seriously," he said.



A Japanese businessman counts his dollars and smiles before flying to the US yesterday. Eriko Sugita/Reuters

Worsening US trade deficit threatens to revive tensions

THE US trade deficit took a further turn for the worse in April as exports sagged. The ostensible reason was the steady weakening of the Asian economies, but the figures showed that US manufacturing exports to the rest of the world were just as weak.

The deficit in April was \$14.6bn (£8.8bn), up nearly 10 per cent from the March figure of \$13.2bn. Imports fell by 0.9 per cent, but that did not outweigh a 2.6 per cent drop in exports from \$79.2bn to \$77.1bn. The deficit for the year is running at an annualised rate of

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

about \$150bn, up from \$110bn last year.

Part of the decline in exports was caused by the weakening of the Asian economies, as the US trade gap with China increased to \$4.28bn, the largest since last October, and the deficit with Taiwan rose to \$1.14bn. But the trade gaps with Japan and Korea actually declined. The deficit with the European Union almost doubled from \$1.44bn to \$2.85bn as exports plunged, and the deficit

with Canada also deteriorated. Manufactured trade accounts for the bulk of the decline, as commodity prices have fallen. Aircraft sales, always a lumpy and potentially unbalancing item in trade accounts, have fallen heavily.

This broader deterioration in America's trade fortunes may be because it is growing fast at a time when the rest of the world, even outside Asia, is expanding relatively slowly, or it may be because cheap Asian exports are outpacing US goods in third-country markets. In either case, it threatens

a revival of the trade tensions between the US, Asia and Europe that were a marked feature of the 1980s. The US is now trying to persuade Japan to boost its economy, and China not to devalue its currency, in an effort to prevent a further decline in the regional economy. The deficit with Asia is up about 40 per cent on last year.

The broader measure of US trade, the current account, has also deteriorated. In the first quarter of this year it increased to an all-time high of \$47.2bn, up from \$45bn in the fourth quarter of 1997.

Maxwell aide seeks injunction Power watchdog's 'vendetta'

A HIGH COURT judge will rule this morning on an attempt by Robert Bunn, a former finance director in the late Robert Maxwell's business empire, to ban the transmission of a BBC documentary next Sunday titled *Fraudbusters*.

Mr Justice Lightman heard submissions in camera at the High Court in the Strand. Mr Bunn's solicitors, Burton Copeland, issued a writ on his behalf on Wednesday against the BBC and Victor Gollancz, publishers of the book *Fraudbusters: The Inside Story of the*

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Serious Fraud Office by Mark Killick. Mr Killick, author and producer, negotiated for over 12 months to gain extensive access to the SFO's offices in Elm Street, London, during the preparation of his TV series and book.

Mr Bunn's writ applied for an injunction stopping the programme and the book from revealing information given by Mr Bunn to the SFO which Mr Bunn claims was given in confidence.

Mr Bunn was the finance director of the private companies owned by Robert Maxwell. Mr Maxwell drowned after falling off his yacht in November 1991.

The book *Fraudbusters* was officially published yesterday and is already in the shops. It details the history of the SFO, set up in April 1988.

The book recounts how, after nothing up early successes in the Guinness and Barlow Clowes trials, the SFO ran into a storm of criticism following the collapses of several high-profile cases.

THE ELECTRICITY regulator, Stephen Littlechild, was yesterday accused of running a "malicious vendetta" against two of the country's largest generators over his plans to increase competition in the power supply market.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) said the watchdog's plans to ask National Power and PowerGen to sell some of their plants would cost jobs and would not cut electricity prices.

A spokesman for the AEEU,

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

which claims to be the largest union at the two firms with a total 1,500 members, said the divestment could cost over 1,000 jobs out of a combined workforce of more than 7,000.

He said that the union had evidence that sales of capacity in a number of industries in the past had led to redundancies.

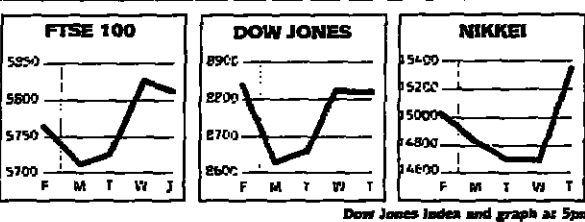
Mr Littlechild has said he would consider asking large generators to divest some of their plants and added that he did not rule out a referral to the

Monopolies and Mergers Commission if they refused.

Mr Jackson said: "This latest attack by the regulator is in line with his malicious vendetta against" the two companies. He urged Mr Littlechild to "stop carping and concentrate on helping the companies".

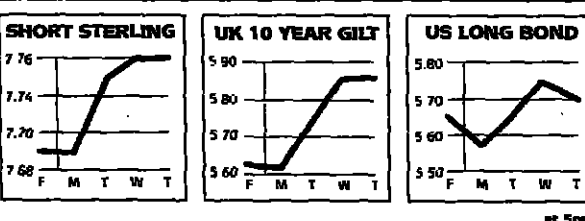
In a separate development, the Government yesterday signalled a delay in the publication of its long-awaited energy review because of the complexity of issues. The review was due to be published this week, but is delayed at least one week.

STOCK MARKETS



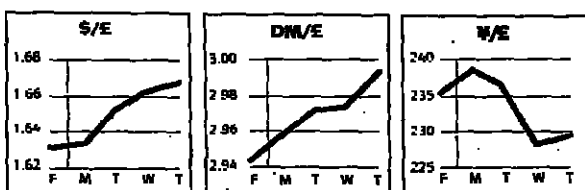
Index	Close	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5812.10	-20.60	6150.50	4332.80	4.00
FTSE 100	5659.20	-24.70	5970.90	4384.20	3.14
FTSE 350	2618.70	-10.40	2790.10	2141.80	3.84
FTSE All Share	2756.12	-9.73	2872.04	2106.59	3.78
FTSE SmallCap	2709.10	-3.10	2793.80	2182.10	3.01
FTSE Fledgling	1479.80	1.40	1517.10	1225.20	3.02
FTSE AIM	1123.60	1.30	1146.90	965.90	1.09
FTSE EBLCC 100	1018.12	-12.70	1123		
Dow Jones	8824.47	-4.24	9261.91	6971.32	1.62
Nikkei	15361.54	4.24	14820.79	14482.21	0.99
Hang Seng	8315.92	5.12	8399.33	7351.58	4.81
Dax	5718.06	8.70	5787.70	3487.24	2.86

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.81	1.07	8.00	0.88	5.88	-1.31	5.47	-1.72
US	5.69	-0.09	5.84	-0.25	5.50	-0.90	5.70	-0.98
Japan	0.56	-0.04	0.61	-0.21	1.58	-1.04	2.06	-1.07
Germany	3.56	0.44	3.89	0.62	4.81	-0.91	5.36	-1.16

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago		at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6685	+0.65c	1.6402	Sterling	0.5993	-0.23p	0.6097
D-Mark	2.9940	+2.36pf	2.8443	D-Mark	1.7927	+0.56pf	1.7243
Yen	229.73	+0.03	186.10	Yen	137.71	+0.08	113.53
E index	105.80	0.00	100.00	S index	111.80	0.00	102.30

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Fig
Brent Oil (\$)	10.99	0.23	17.33	GDP	114.70	2.90	111.47	Aug
Gold (\$)	293.55	0.10	339.25	NPI	163.50	4.20	156.91	Jun
Silver (\$)	5.32	0.04	4.72	Base Rates			7.50	6.50

Source: Bloomberg LP

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6226	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.68
Austria (schillings)	20.28	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2503
Belgium (francs)	59.61	New Zealand (\$)	3.0696
Canada (\$)	2.3707	Norway (krone)	12.28
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435	Portugal (escudos)	203.62
Denmark (krone)	11.05	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0625
Finland (markka)	8.8271	Singapore (\$)	2.6418
France (francs)	9.6785	Spain (pesetas)	244.29
Germany (marks)	2.8967	South Africa (rand)	4.8707
Greece (drachma)	487.75	Sweden (krone)	12.88
Hong Kong (\$)	12.49	Switzerland (francs)	2.4198
Ireland (pounds)	1.1430	Thailand (bahts)	62.04
Indian (rupees)	64.31	Turkey (liras)	421.930
Israel (shekels)	5.6561	USA (\$)	1.6253
Italy (lire)	2855		
Japan (yen)	223.61		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2225		
Malta (lira)	0.6271		

Rates for information purposes only Source: Thomas Cook

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

WORRIES that interest rates will be forced even higher weighed on shares. An early gain was wiped out after heavy retail sales figures for May underlined the dangers of the Monetary Policy Committee opting for yet dearer money. Footsie, off 63.7 points at one time, ended 20.6 lower at 5,812.1. Take-over talk, this time embracing Zeneca, was in the air, pushing its shares 77p higher to 2,625p. Best-performing blue-chip was mobile phone group Orange, which lifted 29p to 510p.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

US STOCKS declined as scepticism that Asia is on a quick road to recovery offset gains by McDonald's and Philip Morris. Stocks surged on Wednesday after the US sold dollars for yen and Japan pledged to resolve the massive bad bank loan problem. The confidence this generated went into reverse yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 16.94 to 8,812.53 in early afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 1.66 to 1105.34. The Nasdaq Composite Index fell 3.91 to 1772.37.

TOKYO

ASIAN STOCKS and currencies soared as joint US and Japanese support for the yen eased local interest rates and calmed fears over currency devaluations. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 Index, Asia's biggest index by value, climbed more than 4 per cent, led by Sony and Nomura Securities, and the yen rose as high as 136.15 to the US dollar today. The yen's plunge to 146.14 earlier this week threatened to accelerate Hong Kong's slide into recession, and raised the spectre of a devaluation of China's currency, the yuan.

GERMANY

INTEREST-RATE jitters sent European bourses down yesterday, reversing an early boost from Asian equities soaring on the stronger yen. The German Dax ended down 52.94 points at 5,689.88 after the Bundesbank's June monthly report hinted at a slight interest-rate increase in the near future. Meanwhile, speculation that Volkswagen is about to buy the Italian car maker Bugatti appeared to have little effect on the stock, with the shares retreating to DM1,748 (\$978).

INDIA

INDIAN SHARES failed to join the party of other Asian markets yesterday, with the top-30 share Bombay index ending 3.19 per cent or 108.62 points lower at 3,292.33. Dealers said strong rumours of some brokers having obtained a stay on the market regulator's temporary ban on short sales triggered fresh selling. These measures which had been imposed to halt a persistent slide in share values had seen speculators scurrying to cover positions on Wednesday. Yesterday the Bombay exchange issued a denial.

Another false dawn for the yen?

FAR EASTERN markets jumped for joy yesterday following the deliberately announced news from the US that the Federal Reserve has finally begun intervening to support the yen. Trouble is that unless the Japanese government takes urgent and far-reaching steps to reform its bombed-out economy, it won't make a blind bit of difference long-term. The world's central banks could spend their combined reserves 10 times over, and still it couldn't stop the markets in full flood. In the absence of a dramatic policy response from Japan, the arrival of the US cavalry isn't going to change things for more than a few weeks.



OUTLOOK

So is Japan finally going to get off its backside and do something? The Fed's intervention may be a signal that it is. Certainly it seemed timed deliberately to coincide with this weekend's meeting in Tokyo of G7 deputy finance ministers. The choice of personnel for the hurriedly arranged meeting, as much as the fact that the US has intervened in the currency markets for the first time since 1985, demonstrates just how seriously the leading countries are taking Japan's problems. Britain is sending Nigel Wickes, a high-ranking Treasury mandarin and veteran

of countless emergency G7 powwows. Plainly the participants mean business. This time there are no photo opportunities for politicians.

That was the good news about Japan yesterday. The bad news is that there is still a lot of negotiation to do. Despite the success of the surprise US intervention on Wednesday in boosting the sagging Japanese currency, and in turn the stock market, traders remained sceptical about whether the yen can really be turned around without a clear and dramatic change in policies by the Japanese government.

Whatever the Japanese for "fine words butter no parsnips", Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto needs

to hear it. For the record, he repeats the usual mantra about boosting the economy, promoting deregulation and speeding banking reform. But he also indicated yesterday that there had been no deal with the US to put in place more substantial policies. He repeated his view that restructuring of the banks did not need fresh public funds. On the question of permanent tax cuts and tax reform, he agreed there was a need for "in-depth discussion".

While these "in-depth discussions" continue Japan's economy is vanishing down the plughole. Currency market intervention is never a solution in itself. It took six months for the G7 to turn around the dollar when it appeared to be in free-fall in 1995 but it only worked because the markets began to believe the relative positions of the two economies were reversing. Japan will struggle to demonstrate a similar turnaround.

Game is not up for Liffe yet

MATIF, the French futures exchange, formally announced yesterday the long-awaited gifts

contracts with which it plans to launch its assault on the London market. The DTB, the German futures exchange which has already comprehensively trounced London with an electronically traded bund contract, will be following suit any week. It has been reported elsewhere that "A" shares in Liffe, which give both ownership and trading rights in the London market, have been changing hands at £50,000 and less, against more than £100,000 only a few months back.

Liffe's new electronic trading system won't be up and running until the second quarter of next year, and that's on the highly optimistic assumption that it gets off to a bug-free start. In the meantime Liffe is forced to struggle by on a combination of outdated and costly open outcry trading and its old banger of a screen-based trading system, APT. By the time it gets its new model on the road, there is a real danger the war will already have been lost. Loss of market dominance to Germany in the bund contract is one thing. To lose pole position on a contract based on our own indigenous gilt-edged stocks would be quite another. Liffe is on the slide with a speed nobody would

have believed possible even a year ago, many people are saying.

That's the perception, in any case. The reality is a good deal less clear. Liffe has certainly been slow to respond to the competitive threat from Europe, but the necessary reform now seems to be in place. Whether it is all too little, too late must await the judgement of history, but there are good reasons for believing this may not be the case. The first is that the Matif may have constructed its gifts contracts in a way traders won't want to use. The long-dated contract in particular is said to be inferior to its London counterpart both as a hedging instrument and for arbitrage.

Furthermore, there is not enough business in gilts futures to create the required liquidity in three different markets. Business is going to gravitate to one or other of them. A large part of the DTB's success in the German bund contract is down to arm-twisting by the German authorities to get German banks to swap their business from London to Frankfurt. The Bank of England may have to perform the same task in London to give Liffe sufficient breathing space to get its own modern screen trading system up and running.

There is a subsidiary point here which is none the less important for it. In a sense it doesn't really matter whose system is used for these futures trades, the important thing as far as jobs and other economic benefit is concerned is where the trading is taking place. Trading in bund futures may have migrated to the DTB, but it also overwhelmingly still takes place in London.

Even so, it is plainly important if London is to remain Europe's top financial centre that it lays claim to the most liquid and efficient exchanges too. Liffe has taken a beating, but the game is not yet up.

The power of partnership

SO THE John Lewis Partnership has ruled out a Goldman-Sachs-style stock market flotation. This is hardly a surprise as it was never under serious consideration in the first place. That hasn't stopped the City running the sums. On a conservative valuation of around £4bn, the partnership would be worth more than £100,000 per employee on conversion. Tempting, eh?

John Lewis has a partnership history going back nearly 70 years and its "never knowingly undersold" department stores and Waitrose supermarkets, have been one of Britain's great retail success stories. The difficulty is that this success is not in spite of its ownership structure, but because of it.

Take service. John Lewis staff are efficient and courteous because they know that a significant part of the group's profits is paid to employees in the annual partnership bonus. Costs are kept lower too. Light switches behind the scenes at the stores feature signs above them saying: "Switch off: you're burning my bonus." Staff are also not allowed to make personal telephone calls or use the photocopier for personal use without paying a standard tariff. Adherence to the rules is universal.

As law firms and accountancy practices have found, the private partnership can be an extremely efficient and powerful business model. Flogging John Lewis might bag a windfall for each member of staff. But would it be fair for them to profit from all the hard work of their predecessors. And is it really theirs to sell?

IN BRIEF

Profit surge for securities firms

MORGAN STANLEY Dean Witter & Co and Lehman Brothers Holdings each reported record second-quarter earnings, led by a surge in corporate takeovers and stock and bond sales.

Morgan, the second-biggest US securities firm, said earnings for the three months ended 31 May rose by 45 per cent, while net income at Lehman, the fourth largest, more than doubled. Both trounced analysts' forecasts.

Profits in the securities industry in the US are running at a record pace for a third year. More than \$1,000bn of announced mergers and \$450bn of securities sales lifted investment banks' fees.

Biotech inquiry

BRITISH BIOTECH is to face an inquiry by members of parliament on 8 July, a member of the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee said yesterday. MP Ian Gibson said the committee had written to British Biotech's chief executive, Keith McCullagh, and sacked head of clinical trials, Andrew Millar, asking them to attend on that date. A follow-up hearing is likely to be held on 15 July. Mr Gibson said the committee was particularly concerned over allegations that senior executives had sold shares just ahead of the abandonment of former lead cancer drug Batimastat. It also wants to investigate allegations that British Biotech misled shareholders through over-optimistic statements on other drugs.

Fewer aircraft

AIRCRAFT MAKER Boeing said the Asian economic crisis will result in about 150 fewer aircraft orders for all manufacturers over the next five years. In its "Current Market Outlook" the Seattle company forecast that small aircraft - those with a single aisle - will account for seven of 10 delivered over the next two decades. "This was the basis for our decision not to build an airplane larger than today's 747," Boeing said.

HW raises £9.2m

HW GROUP said its placing price on the London Stock Exchange of 160p per share would value the business at around £42.5m. The company, which specialises in financial, legal, information technology, technical and commercial recruitment, said it would receive £9.2m from the listing to fund debt repayment and enable acquisitions.

Air travel's Big Four set to take off

News Analysis: The holiday business is now led by just four big operators. Are overcapacity and low profits packed away for ever?

THE CONSOLIDATION in Britain's travel industry took a major leap forward yesterday with a flurry of deals that puts almost 70 per cent of the UK market in the hands of just four operators.

First Choice Holidays led with two deals worth a combined total of £134m. It is paying £110m for Unijet, the tour operator which specialises in package holidays and also controls an airline and car rental business. First Choice is paying a further £24m for Hayes & Jarvis, the upmarket travel company which offers more expensive long-haul trips to destinations such as the Maldives, Africa and the Far East.

Separately, Thomas Cook's Sunworld holiday business is acquiring Flying Colours, which owns the Club 18-30 holidays famous for their racy image. The deal also includes the Flying Colours airline. Though the sum was not disclosed, analysts suggested a possible price tag of £65m. Flying Colours was previously owned by a group of venture capitalists led by NatWest Equity Partners.

Two factors are driving the buying spree. The first is the continuing concentration of the travel industry, a development which has been assisted by the recent Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the industry which did not force tour operators to sell or dramatically reduce their travel agency operations. The second is the growing trend towards long-haul holidays to destinations like Florida and the Caribbean at the expense of the more traditional package holidays to the Mediterranean.

In market-share terms, recently-floated Thomson is still the largest player with 25 per cent of the UK's all-inclusive air holiday market. Yesterday's deals take First Choice to within touching distance of Airtours, which is still in second place with 18.2 per cent. First

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Choice now has 15.4 per cent, with Sunworld on 8 per cent. Nigel Hand, managing director of Thomas Cook's Sunworld division, said the deal was in line with the group's aim to become one of the UK's top three tour operators.

First Choice Holidays chairman, Ian Clubb, said yesterday: "The industry has congealed into four lumps that will dominate the market. Three of them are public companies and so are less likely to start a price war. It should lead to less volatility. But we don't think it will be bad for consumers. There are four big gorillas out there, and they are still going to compete with each other fiercely." He added that there were relatively few other medium-sized companies to snap up: only Cosmos and Inspirations have shares of more than 1 per cent outside the big four.

The scramble for market shares is underpinned by the fact that Airtours and Carlson, the US group, were bidding for Unijet. First Choice considered buying Flying Colours but its offer was turned down.

Peter Long, managing director of First Choice, said the travel market is moving towards a small group of larger players which will co-exist with smaller specialists. "Smaller companies are questioning their future and wondering how they can grow. This is why some of them are selling up." The First Choice deals net huge fortunes for the vendors. Chris Parker, the founder of Unijet, owns half the business and will net £55m. The business achieved profits last year of £10.2m on sales of £308m. "He will work for us for a year abroad," Mr Clubb said.

Hayes & Jarvis is wholly owned by its original founders, Tom and Melba Correia, a husband-and-wife team of



Exotic long-haul destinations such as the Dominican Republic are contributing to strong growth in the UK outbound holiday market

Ugandan origin who established the business 20 years ago. It recorded profits of £2.7m on sales of £51.7m last year.

The two First Choice acquisitions underline the growing trend towards long-haul holidays. Figures provided by Stats MR show that over the last four years long-haul holidays have showed compound growth of 12.3 per cent. This compares to a 1.4 per cent fall in the short-haul market. "Customers are getting more discerning, more experienced and more adventurous," says Mr Long. "Newer destinations like the Caribbean and Mexico are very attractive."

The problem for the larger tour operators is that they have been under-represented in long-haul holidays. For example, while Thomson has 25 per

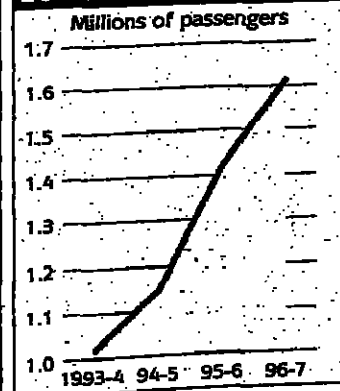
cent of the UK holiday market, its share of long haul is only 14 per cent. They have all been trying to gain share. Airtours has an upmarket long-haul company, Tradewinds, Thomson has Thomson à la Carte, and First Choice has the former BA business, Sovereign.

First Choice is funding its two deals via a 10-for-38 rights issue at 130p per share which will raise £95m. It is also issuing £34m of new First Choice shares to the vendors of Unijet. Mr Clubb said the deals should offer synergies which would enhance profits by £5m. Gains would also come from integrating Unijet's Leisure International Airways with First Choice's Air 2000 airline.

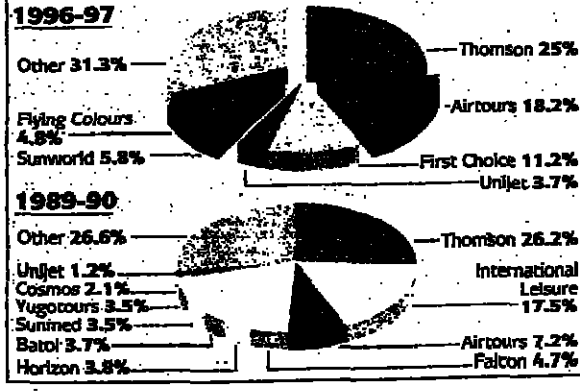
First Choice's half-year results showed a lower interim loss of £17.8m compared to £22.8m the previous year. Profits in the UK rose by £3m.

The company said 1998 summer bookings are 8 per cent ahead of last year. That will result in less late discounting and better margins, it said. For the winter 1998/99 season bookings are 21 per cent ahead of last year. No increase in overall capacity has been booked for next winter. First Choice said the travel industry was learning that piling on capacity only to be forced into heavy discounting was a recipe for financial disaster.

LONG-HAUL HOLIDAYS



CHANGING SHARE OF HOLIDAY MARKET



PIA loses second top representative

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE Personal Investment Authority, the City regulator, lost its second senior representative in nine months yesterday as one of its board directors resigned following the suspension of his firm.

Bill Raynes, one of the watchdog's practitioner directors, resigned after the watchdog suspended a firm of

Independent Financial Advisers of which he is a director over a number of alleged regulatory breaches.

Mr Raynes had been elected to the PIA board in July 1996 by a constituency of IFAs. As practitioner director, his responsibility was to keep the

PIA in touch with IFA's requirements.

His resignation comes just nine months after the departure from the PIA board of Ken Davy following the watchdog's decision to fine his firm, DBS Management, £425,000 for its slowness in solving its pension mis-selling cases.

The PIA said that it had

suspended Raynes, Hodder, Davison & Co, a Sheffield-based IFA, because it

appeared that a majority of the firm's controllers "may not be fit and proper to act in that capacity".

The watchdog also said that the IFA could be in breach of rules that require firms to ensure they have enough

financial resources to carry out their business.

A spokeswoman for the PIA declined to expand on the reasons for the suspension, but said that the watchdog was set to carry out an inquiry into the IFA's activities and that the suspension would be in place until the investigation ends.

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Zeneca surges on Astra rumours

IT WAS drug group Zeneca's turn to go on a high. The fickle stock market, which has relentlessly pursued the theory that Glaxo Wellcome will, after all, take out SmithKline Beecham, suddenly switched its attention to the former Imperial Chemical Industries offshoot, sending the shares 77p higher to 2,625p in busy trading.

It latched on to a story that Astra, the aggressive Swedish group, planned a get-together with Zeneca.

Astra is thought to be on the verge of clinching a deal to buy the outstanding 50 per cent stake in a joint venture with the American Merck group. Such a deal would clear the way for Astra to merge with another major drug group, achieving a long-held ambition.

Some believe Astra has already offered the gentlest of hints that it is looking at Zeneca.

Other drug shares took a breather with Glaxo and SB giving ground.

CS Securities made cautious noises about Zeneca. It trimmed profit expectations and said the shares were no more than a hold.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

After Wednesday's Herculean effort the stock market fell back. Footsie started brightly enough, gaining 38.7 points in the first few minutes. But a set of heavy retail sales figures transformed the atmosphere. Suddenly another interest rate increase looked all too likely and Footsie reversed, swinging to a 63.7 loss. It closed at 5,812.1, off 20.6. Supporting indices remained uncertain with the mid cap off 24.7 to 5,659.2.

Today's double witching, when FTSE futures and options expire, created uncertainty. Indeed the

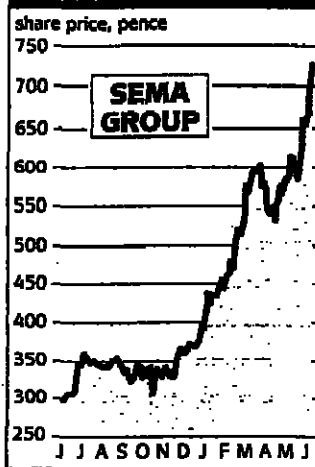
Stock Exchange appeared to be so nervous it was moved to write to firms underlining the danger of volatile trading and the need to take care when dealing for clients.

The last double witching produced chaos, with Footsie suspended as BG broke through the 20 per cent movement barrier. In the hectic 20 minutes when derivative deals were settled Footsie lurched from a 117 fall and then staged a 225 surge as shameless attempts were made to produce a reading which suited derivative players.

The double witching is not a new development. But the whole exercise has become much more volatile now order-driven trading dominates the Footsie calculation. Small orders slipped on the order book can have a dramatic impact on share prices and consequently the index.

Orange was the best performing Footsie constituent, up 29p to 510p with Merrill Lynch providing a friendly push. Vodafone gained 11p to 716p, helped by support from Lehman Brothers, but Telewest Communications was disconnected, off 4p to 127p as merger talks with NTL ended.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Sema, the computer group, firmed 31.25p to 727.25p on talk of a US deal but Micro Focus lost 67.5p to 452.5p following a £232m US swoop.

Pillingington, the glass maker, found an analysts' trip to its Italian operations a mixed blessing. SBC Warburg was among the investment houses to suggest a sell; SG Secu-

rities advised a buy. The shares cracked 4p to 120.5p.

Cliveden, the hotel group which has attracted Microsoft's Bill Gates, rose 2p to 83.5p. There had been hopes that the bid, 95p a share, would be pitched in the region of 115p, even 125p. First Choice, the holidays group, duly produced deals, the £134m takeover of Unilever and Hayes & Jarvis. The shares rose 15p to 167.5p.

BTP, the chemical group, improved 8p to 543.5p with Merrill highlighting prospects of further expansion and putting a 620p target on the shares.

House builders faced a demolition job as Schroders warned on the sector, drawing attention to the slowdown in house sales. Barratt Developments lost 10.5p to 307.5p and George Wimpey 6p to 128p.

Sketchley, the cleaning and photographic group, retreated 4.5p to 37p as the long awaited bidder decided to walk away. Talks to sell the group's retail spread, the dry cleaning and SupaSnaps chains, are still dragging on.

British Regional Airlines made its debut, touching 171.5p against a

150p placing. However such an altitude could not be maintained and the shares ended at 158.5p in busy trading. Anglo Siberian Oil also appeared, ending at 106.5p against a 100p placing.

Robert H Lowe, the packaging and printing group, fell 4.5p to 15.25p on a profits warning and Celebrated, a restaurant operation, fell 2.5p to 8.5p on disappointing profits.

Aromascan, the electronic nose group, lost 3.5p to 10.5p following the departure of chairman Richard Lyman. Year's figures are due. In 1996 the shares were 182p.

Caledonia Investments, the Cayzer family company, added 38.5p to 975p. Schroders is understood to have suggested a fair value price of 1,000p.

Zergo, the computer group, firmed 2.5p to 395p. The AIM-traded group intends to place around 8 million shares ahead of its move to a full listing in a month's time. It plans to raise around £15m. Analyst Ingrid von Hentschel at stockbroker Beeson Gregory believes the company is unlikely to be profitable this year because of heavy research and development and marketing charges.

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY, the struggling computer group, is trying to get a rights issue put together a cash-raising exercise with shares offered at 10p. One suggestion is that the stockbroker Williams de Broe is trying to get a rights issue underwritten. Some of the cash could be used to buy a US group which is regarded as a rival to Tadpole. The computer company has had a hair-raising stock market ride since it arrived six years ago. At one time the shares touched 432p. They closed at 17p, off 1p.

HW, a specialist recruitment consultancy, will come to the stock market next week. Shares have been placed at 160p, pricing the company at £42.5m. It specialises in finance and legal staff. Profits last year increased 67 per cent to £3.9m.

SEAQ VOLUME: 882.5m
SEAQ TRADES: 66,279
GILT INDEX: 104.96 +0.06

Lonrho finds life hard down the mine

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

IT'S HARD to think of Lonrho as a proper company, but that's more or less what it has become. In the past year, chief executive Nick Morrell has banished the combined memories of Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock by demerging the African businesses, selling the hotel chains, and buying back shares held by South African giant Anglo American.

All this is welcome for investors, because it clears up Lonrho's opaque structure. The downside is that Lonrho could hardly have picked a worse time to become a pure mining business.

Demand for gold, coal and platinum has been hit as part of the global commodities downturn which was sparked by the Asian crisis. Then there is the added uncertainty over gold sales by European central banks.

Not that yesterday's interim results gave a clear picture of what is going on. The figures were distorted by the demerger and the £60m exceptional cost of writing down the value of Lonrho's holding in the Opon gas field in Colombia.

And there is more to come. Lonrho still has to book the exceptional profit from the Princess

hotels, which were sold for £332m last week. The South African Tavistock coal mining business, which Lonrho bought from the now-defunct JCI, was also not included in these results.

Despite the gloomy outlook, Mr Morrell remains upbeat. He reckons that demand for platinum is running ahead of supply, while the devaluation of the rand has made South African coal cheap for export markets.

The company also has a hedge which protects Ashanti, its gold mining arm, from a falling gold price.

Looking ahead, Lonrho expects mining profits to improve - but that's on the heroic assumption that current prices and exchange rates do not change. Analysts think full year profits will be about £75m, which puts the shares - up 3p to 283p, yesterday - on a forward p/e ratio of about 11.

A time will come to buy these shares. For now, however, they are no more than a hold.

A good time to buy Micro Focus

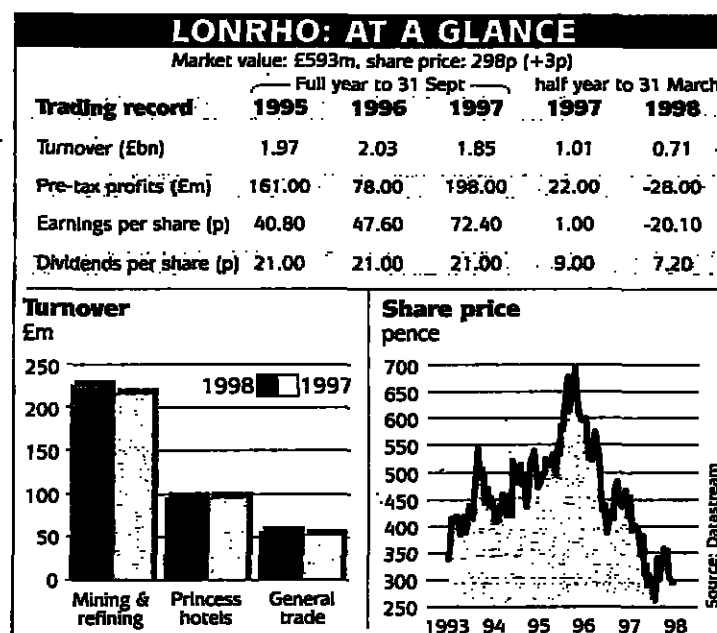
HIGH-FLYING software company announces big deal. Shares fall 13 per cent.

For a moment yesterday, investors in Micro Focus must have thought the bubble had burst on their hi-tech stock when the shares plunged 67.5p to 452.5p. But they needn't have worried.

Micro Focus's £303m all-share offer for Intervolv, the US software group, opened up huge arbitrage opportunities. So clever investors sold Micro Focus shares because they could get the same exposure at a lower price by buying Intervolv instead.

In fact, Micro Focus's biggest acquisition to date looks a good deal. The obvious synergies aside, it has negotiated a good price. The merger values Intervolv at just 2.5 times revenues.

Even after yesterday's fall, Micro Focus trades on a multiple of more



than 3.5 times sales. What's more, the UK business is less profitable. Who said UK information technology stocks get a raw deal from investors?

The merger also has a compelling industrial logic. Micro Focus supplies software that helps developers design their own applications. Intervolv provides the tools and related services that allow developers to use those applications effectively.

Although the two companies sell via different channels, they reckon they share many common customers. The deal also strengthens Micro Focus's service arm, and gives it access to a telesales team who will help support existing customers.

The trick for Martin Waters,

Micro Focus's chief executive, will be to weld the two product sets into an integrated offering.

The company will have to continue to service existing clients properly, too.

Longer term, Mr Waters also has to steer Micro Focus away from business related to the millennium bug and the euro, which still accounts for a fifth of the enlarged group's sales.

If the merger works out, there is potential for huge revenue growth. And with the combined entity trading on a historical earnings multiple of 30, yesterday's share price fall looks like a gilt-edged buying opportunity.

If Mr Waters delivers on his promises, the shares will never be this cheap again.

Scapa hit by strong pound

THESE ARE sticky times for Scapa Group. The maker of Sellotapes and paper-making products yesterday joined the long list of UK manufacturers hit by the strong pound and the Asian crisis.

These two factors wiped more than £10m from the company's pre-tax profit which, at £51m, was almost 9 per cent below last year's level.

And there is more to come. With the overwhelming majority of its sales coming from overseas, Scapa is bracing itself for a combined £5m hit on profits in the current year.

The company's response has been to attack its cost base by overhauling its three divisions and shedding some of the peripheral parts.

The restructuring is aimed at expanding high-value, high margin businesses such as tapes and filtration products through acquisitions, while at the same time trying to limit the damage in the paper products division until better times return.

So far the plan has produced a £23m exceptional charge, which Scapa is confident of recouping over three years, and a 10 per cent cut in staff numbers.

The problem with Scapa's ambitions is that they are a bit too long-term for the market's liking. The shares fell 2p to 200p yesterday, reflecting investors' impatience with the company. True, the shares now trade on a measly 11 times house broker CSFB's £66m profit forecast, a tempting 40 per cent discount to the market. But with trading conditions likely to remain tough for a while, Scapa's shares are only for the patient. Hold.

IN BRIEF

Lowe warning

SHARES IN Robert H Lowe fell sharply after the company issued a profits warning and announced it is pulling out of sportswear. The group's house broker has downgraded estimates for the current year to £3.17m from £4m as the company said it has lost its contract with Adidas. The company blamed the loss on leading sportswear brands sourcing garments from overseas, due to the continued strength of sterling and cheaper labour costs. The contract accounted for 70 per cent of turnover in the sportswear division. At the halfway stage, Lowe reported pre-tax profit of £1.82m compared with £1.66m in the same period last year. The shares fell 4.5p to 15.25p.

Phonelink buys

PHONELINK, the software and telecommunications services group, is to spend £16.1m on two acquisitions. The group is to pay up to £11m for GB Mailing, which provides address software products to finance, utilities and retail companies, and up to £5.1m for Seaford Travel, a business travel agency.

Vita expansion

BRITISH VITA, the polymers group that makes chemicals for packaging, engineering and other industries, has agreed to pay £34.6m in cash, assumed debt and loan notes for Hyperlast in a move to expand its product range. Hyperlast makes polyurethane parts for under-sea pipeline coatings, electrical insulation and construction cladding. In 1997 it had profits of £2.3m on sales of £24m. British Vita shares were unchanged at 295.5p.

COMPANY RESULTS									
Company	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend			
Northern	-	41.1m (75.7m)	31.1p (68.3p)	20.0p (19.0p)	05.08.98	29.08.98			
Calsonic Investments (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Calsonic Group (F)	7.7m (7.5m)	-2.962m (2.260m)	-9.91p (6.46p)	1.0p (0.9p)	05.11.98	28.08.98			
First Choice (F)	386.2m (373.7m)	-17.8m (22.8m)	-	1.0p (10.0p)	27.07.98	29.08.98			
Gannett Group (F)	-	35.4m (17.7m)	30.1p (18.1p)	17.0p (15.0p)	18.08.98	29.08.98			
SGP Ltd (F)	102.02m (207.5m)	25.92m (22.57m)	25.92p (22.57p)	5.87p (5.34p)	18.08.98	29.08.98			
SGP Ltd (F)	-	199.3m (115.8m)	44.5p (32.1p)	7.0p (-)	17.08.98	13.07.98			
Laureate (F)	705.0m (1,011m)	38.0m (38.0m)	13.0p (8.2p)	7.2p (6.0p)	06.04.98	06.04.98			
Robert H Lowe (F)	23.2m (13.0m)	1.53m (1.55m)	1.11p (1.22p)	0.155p (0.125p)	01.11.98	06.10.98			
Phonelink (F)	3.2m (4.3m)	-3.748m (4.173m)	84p (-)	-	-	-			
Scapa (F)	23.7m (18.6m)	0.141m (1.82m)	0.06p (12.27p)	84p (-)	-	-			
Seaford Travel (F)	583.7m (526.8m)	0.141m (1.82m)	0.06p (12.27p)	84p (-)	-	-			
Sea Holdings (F)	26.0m (27.0m)	1.87m (1.59m)	20.1p (14.4p)	8.0p (5.0p)	21.08.98	06.07.98			
WT Foods (F)	28.0m (24.2m)	3.653m (1.404m)	3.13p (1.80p)	1.50p (1.50p)	01.08.98	29.08.98			

(F) - Final (I) - Interim EPS is pre-exceptionals *Dividend to be paid as a RD

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot	1 month	3 month	UK Base	Germany	US
UK	10000	2758	2758	0.9369	0.9369	0.9369	7500	Discount	Prime
Australia	2758	2758	2758	0.9369	0.9369	0.9369	4500	Discount	Prime
Austria	21057	21061	21062	19.491	19.491	19.491	3300	Discount	Prime
Belgium	61543	61539	61539	22.642	22.642	22.642	2500	Discount	Prime
Canada	24559	24495	24556	57.001	57.001	57.001	2500	Discount	Prime
Denmark	11476	11383	11372	6.8456	6.8456	6.8456	3300	Discount	Prime
ECU	15593	15277	15208	16.638	16.638	16.638	3300	Discount	Prime
France	61543	61539	61539	22.642	22.642	22.642	2500	Discount	Prime
Germany	23841	23843	23843	5.4591	5.4591	5.4591	2500	Discount	Prime
Greece	91231	91231	91231	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Hong Kong	22916	22916	22916	7.252	7.252	7.252	2500	Discount	Prime
Ireland	12882	12882	12882	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Italy	25541	25541	25541	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Japan	25541	25541	25541	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Malaysia	60976	60976	60976	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Mexico	14515	14515	14515	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Netherlands	33797	33797	33797	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
New Zealand	32755	32755	32755	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Norway	12587	12587	12587	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Portugal	30700	30700	30700	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Saudi Arabia	62550	62550	62550	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Singapore	27587	27587	27587	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
South Africa	60059	60059	60059	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Spain	25405	25405	25405	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Sweden	13247	13247	13247	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
Switzerland	24006	24006	24006	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime
US	15555	15555	15555	16.638	16.638	16.638	2500	Discount	Prime

OTHER SPOT RATES				MONEY MARKET RATES			
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling
Argentina	10888	10000	Iran	0.6422	0.3850		
Brazil	15277	10000	Poland	73.81	44.250	Treasury Bills	
China	13.816	8.0799	Philippines	44.250	34.822	1 week	748 725
Czech Rep	55.49	55.49	Russia	5.8272	5.8272	1 month	748 725
Denmark	56771	56771	Saudi Arabia	60.729	60.729	3 month	748 725
Egypt	38925	38925	South Africa	61.916	61.916	LIBOR	
France	38173	38173	South Korea	336.20	336.20	Overnight	675 720
Germany	70359	70359	Taiwan	34.01	34.01	1 week	725 723
Hong Kong	25779	25779	Thailand	48.828	48.828	1 month	744 723
India	0.5708	0.5708	Turkey	45.250	45.250	3 month	748 725
Indonesia	14238	14238	UK	61.84	61.84	Swapping CDs	
Kuwait	0.5708	0.5708	US	26.220	26.220	1 week	720 725
Malaysia	10.222	10.222				1 month	720 725
Philippines	44.250	44.250				3 month	720 725
Poland	73.81	73.81				6 month	720 725
Romania	67.288	67.288				1 year	720 725
Russia	5.8272	5.8272				2 year	720 725
Saudi Arabia	60.729	60.729				3 year	720 725
South Africa	61.916	61.916				4 year	720 725
South Korea	336.20	336.20				5 year	720 725
Taiwan	34.01	34.01				6 year	720 725
Thailand	48.828	48.828				7 year	720 725
Turkey	45.250	45.250				8 year	720 725
UK	61.84	61.84				9 year	720 725
US	26.220	26.220				10 year	720 725

www.bloomberg.com/uk

French assault on gilts contract

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PRESSURE on Liffe, London's futures exchange, intensified yesterday when Matif, the French futures exchange, announced plans to trade in gilt futures, an area where Liffe currently enjoys a monopoly.

The French exchange is to begin trading 5 and 10-year gilt futures on its electronic trading system on July 15.

In a statement, Matif said: "The launch of the new gilt contracts comes in response to the wish of market participants, particularly in the UK, to benefit from the advantages of electronic trading."

Dealers at Liffe trade gilt futures using the open outcry method of trading. However, Liffe this week said it would move the five-year gilt future on to APT, its screen-based trading system, in August.



Liffe's open outcry will give way to screen-based trading for some gilt futures

Traders now predict competition for trade in gilt futures to turn into a three-way battle. The DTB, the German futures exchange, is widely expected to begin trading gilt futures later this year. The DTB, which also uses electronic trading, has already managed to win the bulk of the trade in the prestigious German government bond future, the Bund, from Liffe.

Liffe has faced fierce criticism from its members for failing to respond sufficiently quickly to competition from foreign exchanges. Ed Condon, director of European listed derivatives at Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "The market is not big enough to support three exchanges. Volume will automatically gravitate to one

exchange. Liffe has 100 per cent share of the gilt, and the others will need to do something different to persuade people to switch. They are hoping that electronic trading will be the answer." A Liffe spokesperson said the exchange would be "re-viewing urgently" whether to bring put its 10-year gilt future on to its APT system.

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Ofwat in row over environmental costs

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE water industry regulator and the Environment Agency were locked in a bitter row yesterday over plans to improve Britain's beaches and sewage systems in the next millennium.

The director general of Ofwat, Ian Byatt, said that a wide-ranging programme of environmental action proposed by the Environment Agency would cost water companies up to £1.1bn and could add an extra £46 to the average household bill between 2000 and 2005.

He said the improvements would "cost considerable sums of money for little benefit" and urged the Agency to reduce the scale of the programme.

The Environment Agency, the quango charged with the protection of the environment, denied that bills would have to rise as a result of its plan as water companies could pay for

the improvements through efficiency savings.

The two bodies have been lobbying the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, John Prescott, over the extent of the environmental improvements to be funded by water companies after 2000. Mr Prescott is expected to announce a decision next month, but there is a chance the announcement could be delayed as the Government tries to broker a compromise between the agency and Ofwat.

Mr Byatt urged the minister to take a "hard-nosed" approach to the programme's costs and said Mr Prescott "should not be beguiled into doing things that do not provide benefits" to customers. The regulator said at the

launch of Ofwat's annual report that only half the cost of the programme could be met by efficiency savings, and the rest would have to be passed on to customers in higher bills.

The Environment Agency's director of water management, Dr Geoff Mance, said he "strongly disagrees" with Mr Byatt. He added that the regulator "would spend his time more profitably questioning whether the companies' cost estimates are realistic".

The two bodies also disagreed on the implications of a recent poll by Mr Prescott's department, which showed that 53 per cent of customers were willing to pay more to improve the environment, but two in three would not pay more than £10 above their normal bills.

Mr Byatt set himself on a collision course with the Government when he said he

supported a Conservative proposal to open up competition in the water market. He said he favoured an amendment by the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, John Redwood, to the Competition Bill, which would oblige firms to allow competitors to use their pipes.

Mr Byatt also criticised some water companies for paying out "unsustainable" dividends to shareholders, but noted that suppliers have begun to reduce dividends after his sharp criticism last year.

Ofwat's annual report showed that leakages fell by around 10 per cent in 1997. Thames Water and Welsh Water were the worst offenders.

According to the watchdog's estimates, domestic bills are expected to rise by 1.4 per cent in 1998/99, adding an extra £3 to last year's average payment of £242.

The pay message is not getting through

ECONOMICS



DIANE COYLE

'It is fantasy politics to believe that somehow the money for public sector pay could be found if City fat cats could be penalised'

THE PEOPLE whose job it is to run the economy - Gordon Brown and the MPC nine - must be starting to feel as though they are banging their head against a brick wall.

Virtually every day the Chancellor issues some exhortation to keep pay deals low, stressing that the future stability of the economy rests on our shoulders. The Bank of England's experts have made it plain as pie that too-rapid earnings growth is what triggered the latest rise in interest rates, and will trigger the next one if we don't watch out.

Is the message getting through? The answer has to be a resounding no. For the typical worker, the chain of events is not that higher pay settlements lead to higher interest rates, but precisely the opposite: that higher mortgage rates lead to higher pay claims. Even supposedly sophisticated City analysts criticise the MPC for increasing headline inflation and consequently earnings growth by taking action that increases the cost of mortgages.

However, to run the risk of sounding boring about this, Britain's policy makers are not mad, bad and dangerous. They have a point in harping on about pay at a time when, however patchy it is, the economy is indeed closer to overheating than it has been in 10 years.

Two things dear to the heart of most of us depend on wage deals remaining "reasonable". They are the amount we pay to buy our homes and the quality of our health and education services. Start with interest rates.

The jobs market is at the heart of the question as to how fast the Bank of England can allow the economy to expand. If it steps on the brakes too little or too late, output hits the inflation buffers and we return to the classic British economic problem of high and rising inflation.

Not only does inflation make the economy less efficient and account in part for lower levels of productivity in the UK, it is also very unpopular with voters. Governments that see inflation rise during their term typically lose the subsequent election. Inflation is a fraud on anybody with savings, and on people on low and fixed incomes - in other words, most of the population.

The catch is that those inflation buffers are reached at an uncomfortably high level of unemployment. Economic expansion over the course of the cycle can reduce unemployment so far but no further, leaving a high residual or

up the struggle of looking for work and withdrawn from the labour force. The Employment Policy Institute estimates there could be as many as 1.4 million discouraged workers, compared to the 1.8 million counted as unemployed by the survey.

Among some economists and certainly many union leaders, the notion that structural unemployment is so high - or even exists at all - is controversial. For example, in the

US the firebrand former Labor Secretary, Robert Reich, has criticised the Federal Reserve for not allowing growth to accelerate further from its 5 per cent annual rate in order to trim the numbers out of work - and the US has 4.3 per cent unemployment. Certainly in the UK there are critics of the Bank who challenge the notion that the economy has already reached that structural bottom line.

In a paper presented at a recent conference, John Philpott, director of the EPI, ran through the arguments in defence of the Bank. The independent think-tank puts Britain's NAIRU at somewhere around 7 per cent and applauds the Bank's pragmatism in allowing unemployment to fall as far as it has before tightening monetary policy again. As he noted, we do not have a tight jobs market in the sense that it is a sellers' market - relatively few of us can be confident that if we lose our job we will stroll into another on equally good terms. But we have reached the limit of the economy's ability to grow and create jobs without triggering inflation.

He argued that we need a strategy for "making pay

petitors are paying and justify it by saying it is fine for wage growth to match productivity growth.

At the level of an individual company this is just about excusable, although it implies that none of the productivity gain goes to profits and investment. At the level of the economy it is dreadful. Productivity gains are not entirely the result of the sweat of workers' brows. Investment in new technologies, management and developments external to the company such as more competitive markets also contribute.

As Mr Philpott put it: "The fashion for linking pay to productivity is therefore a classic case of business short-termism - not good for consumers, harmful to competitiveness and damaging to long-term performance." Instead, earnings growth should be limited to long-run productivity growth across the economy plus the inflation target - in other words, something under 4.5 per cent.

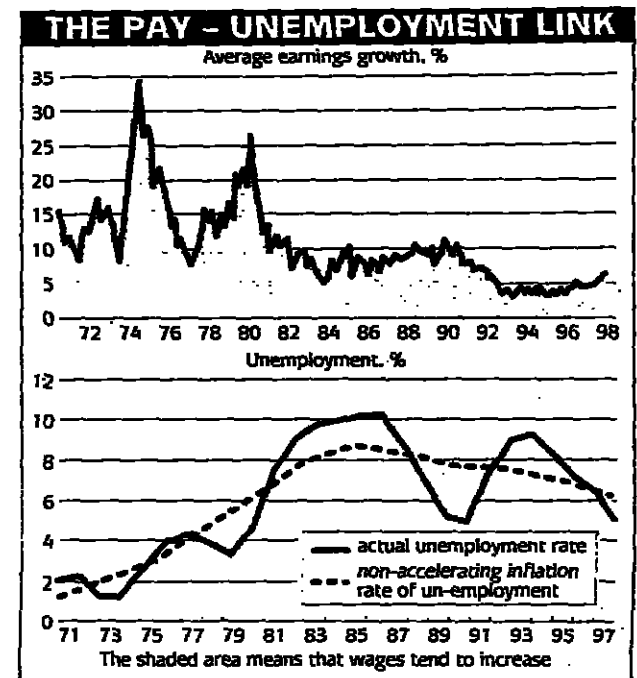
One can sympathise with the Chancellor being unwilling to spell this out more forcefully than his vague exhortations to be prudent and responsible. After all, not only is he already unpopular with the unions over public sector pay and the minimum wage, but he can also see how much criticism the Bank of England has come in for.

But Mr Brown has a more urgent reason for desiring slower growth in earnings. Public spending control depends on being able to keep public sector pay growth low. If private sector earnings take off still further, the public sector will find it harder and harder to retain and attract staff, and discontent will spread. He, as much as anyone, wants a high-quality health and education service. He can't deliver it if the pay gap widens.

It is fantasy politics to believe that somehow the money for public sector pay could be found if City fat cats could be penalised. Even the London partners of Goldman Sachs are not wealthy enough to fund a 5 per cent rise across the public sector.

Of course, if those of us in the private sector are willing to earmark an income tax increase of, say, 3p in the pound out of our expanding pay packets to boost teachers' and nurses' pay, that is another matter. But, oddly enough, it is not an option the critics of the Chancellor and the MPC have been canvassing.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk



Work hard, sell out - and life's one long holiday

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Mr Edmonds said: "It is wrong for people to be continually harassed by telesales companies after clearly asking them not to call again."

Under the Telecommunications Act 1984, all telesales companies must stop calling customers if they are requested to do so. Failure to do so can result in the withdrawal of the company's telesales licence under Condition 6.1(a) of the licence.

Greek Taverna owner Vasos Herodotou described the Ofel order as a "relief", adding: "This has been going on for three years now. I have lost count of the number of times they have rung me trying to sell me advertising." Mr Herodotou said on one occasion he had been rung up five times in 10 minutes.

The calls continued even after James E James Ltd finally agreed to take the restaurant off their telephone list. "Their

infrastructure is such that they seemed not to be aware of what is going on," said Mr Herodotou.

DOUGLAS LLAMBIAS, the portly accountant who recently sold his recruitment agency for big bucks, is about to dive headlong into the row over the proposed £450m sale of the RAC to an American bidder.

Mr Llambras, who reputedly drives a Bentley, will launch a campaign today at the RAC annual general meeting to get fairer treatment for staff and pensioners in the anticipated bonanza pay-out.

He proposes to earmark a mere 1 per cent of the members' pay-out to staff and pensioners, giving them an average £5,000 each, instead of just allowing the directors of the RAC to cream off the best part of £1m for themselves, averaging £35,000 each.

Mr Llambras is among other things a formidable member of the council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He enjoys the reputation of being a thorn in their side, never happier than when championing the anti-establishment option. The RAC had better watch out.

WHO AUDITS the auditors? BDO Stoy Hayward does, when it comes to Big Six accountancy giant Ernst & Young. E&Y is following the example of its erstwhile partner KPMG in submitting its accounts to outside scrutiny for the first time, something accountancy firms

have not been keen on in the past. The Stoy chaps should have some fun, given their much publicised antipathy towards the bigger firms typified by E&Y.

CALLING ALL connoisseurs of fine wine: avoid 1997 Bordeaux, and go instead for Burgundies. This is the advice of John Armit, whose eponymous company in London has a special wine investment division.

While Mr Armit regards the Bordeaux 1997 vintage as "charming", he fears that chateaux owners have priced last year's wines more highly than the top quality 1996 vintages.

He suggests this may be because "the owners feel that they sold their 1995 and 1996 wines too cheaply and so want to sell the less good 1997 vintage more expensively to compensate."

On the other hand, he speculates: "The owners are aware that there is very little stock of older vintages in Bordeaux and that merchants like us will be obliged to buy to ensure that we do not lose our place for the 1999, 2000 and 2001 vintages which will inevitably be in huge demand."

The solution? Fill your cellars with Burgundy instead. "The quality of wine being made in Burgundy today is higher than it has ever been and the prices of Burgundy are very low when compared to Bordeaux." I'm a Hironelle man myself.

The Independent and Lavazza Coffee, who are an official sponsor of the World Cup 98, are offering one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of tickets to watch the game between England and Colombia live in Lens on Friday 26th June. The winner will be a guest of Lavazza Coffee - 'The Italian's favourite coffee'. The winner will have to make their way to London to rendezvous at the Lavazza offices in Chiswick for an early start to France on the morning of June 26th. The trip includes travel from London, accommodation, dinner and transfers to and from the match. You will return to London on the 27th June.

Q : - Who scored England's first goal in France 98?

- a) Shearer
- b) Scholes
- c) Sheringham

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SPORT

Dunedin Test: Woodward seeks any advantage to close class gap as All Black maverick offers underdogs hope

England's paranoia seems justified

BY CHRIS HEWETT
in Dunedin

MATT DAWSON definitely knows the team, the All Blacks are more or less sure of the team and nine-tenths of the population of New Zealand have spent the last day and a half reading about the team in their newspapers, but Clive Woodward remains unshakable in his refusal to utter a single syllable on the subject of his line-up for tomorrow's opening Test at Carisbrook. "We won't be confirming anything until an hour before kick-off," said the England rugby union coach at the end of a bizarre session of insinuations, half-truths and Chinese whispers. John le Carré, eat your heart out.

From now on, I will not release precise details of our side until the morning of a match at the earliest," insisted Woodward. "I want to set the precedent because when we get to the really important battles in next year's World Cup, I'm determined to give myself every conceivable advantage over the opposition. I'm not saying the All Blacks will be unable to sleep because I haven't specified our team details for this match - to be honest, they won't lose much shut-eye whoever we send out to face them - but I think it's perfectly logical to keep people guessing for as long as possible. Why make their jobs any easier?"

Why indeed? Woodward's logic has been less than infallible in the 10 months since he took hold of the England reins; his frequent flashes of inspiration have been punctuated by the occasional *four pas* born of an over-active gambler's instinct and a philosophical preference for the theoretical over the pragmatic. But the coach may well have it right on

this issue. Great teams apart, most sides benefit from the horses-for-courses approach and there is no point whatsoever in saddling up the preferred steeds a week in advance.

"When we won the toss against New Zealand A in that downpour in Hamilton last weekend, they were absolutely desperate to know whether we were going to play with the wind or against it," said Woodward. "Why? Because they had one scrum-half able to kick brilliantly down wind and another able to run brilliantly into it. It was a totally calculated move on their coach's part and hats off to him. In retrospect, we shouldn't have told them anything. It's the name of the game nowadays."

As it is, the tourists look virtually certain to enter the so-called House of Pain for their first-ever Dunedin

Test with Tim Stimpson on the right wing, Josh Lewsey at inside centre and Jonny Wilkinson at stand-off. Ben Clarke and Steve Ojomoh will start in the back row alongside Pat Sanderson, a new cap. In the front row, Richard Cockerill appears to have held off the energetic challenge of Phil Greening, the one selection that beggars belief.

Woodward is under no illusions as to the scale of the task confronting him. "No English side should concede 76 points to anyone, yet we did so to the Wallabies 13 days ago," he said. "This has been a huge challenge in terms of coaching, man management and intellectual adaptation and I'm the first to admit that the lack of progress shown by some of the players on this tour, especially among the backs, has been a disappointment. But we won't lose by 76 this time. I

think we'll have the right guys on the pitch."

Sadly, so will the All Blacks, who go into their first international of the season with a full-strength pack boasting Anton Oliver, Robin Brooke and the great Michael Jones, all of whom passed fitness examinations yesterday.

John Hart, their coach, has spent the week preparing the unforgiving New Zealand rugby public for an underbaked, below par performance, but the word on the street has the home side at least 40 points better than the tourists in spite of their shortage of Test conditioning.

"Our training has been no better than average," said Hart yesterday, scrupulously avoiding the pertinent fact that one dropped pass in an All Black session constitutes a public inquiry. "We have a new captain and

new players in key areas of the side and when you leave a period of stability and find yourselves up against opponents who refuse to name their line-up, preparation becomes a little difficult.

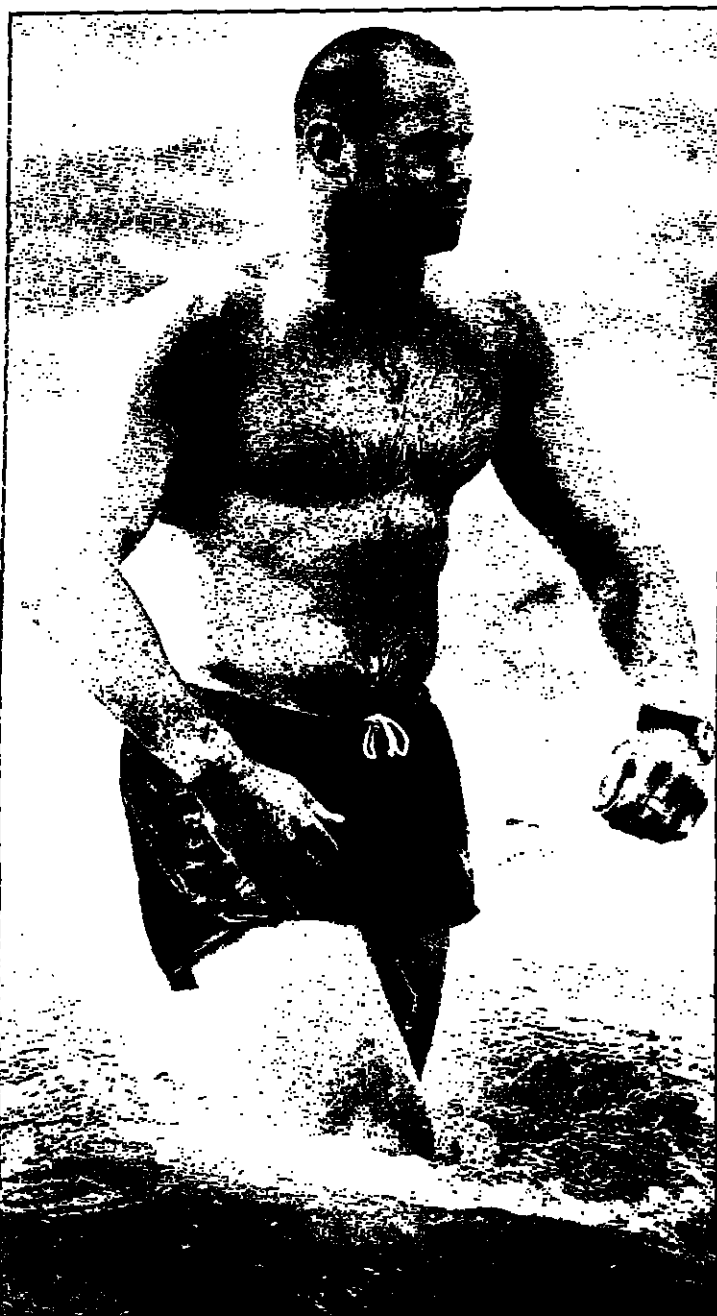
"But we're a humble side, one that understands that the achievements of 1996 and 1997 no longer have any real credibility. It's a new year and we know that nothing will happen for us unless we make it happen. England will put out the best available team and we expect a very physical encounter against a side well organised at the line-out, strong in the scrum and looking to restore some pride."

With two rookie skippers on display - Dawson of England and the brilliant Taine Randell of New Zealand - the early stages of tomorrow's confrontation are likely to be fiery and inconclusive, especially as

visiting hard nuts like Garath Archer are only one bad game away from demotion.

But no one seriously doubts that Andrew Mehrtens, Walter Little and the stunning All Black back three of Lomu, Wilson and Cullen will cut loose at some point during the proceedings. When they do, it will be a case of Goodnight, Sweet Chariot.

NEW ZEALAND: C Cullen (Wellington); J Wilson (Otago); M Hogganville (Canterbury); W Little (North Harbour); J Lomas (Canterbury); A Mather (Canterbury); O Tsewa (Auckland); C Dowd (Auckland); A Oliver (Otago); O Thomas (Auckland); R Brooke (Auckland); J Jones (North Harbour); M Jones (Auckland); T Randell (Otago, capt); J Kneeheld (Otago). **ENGLAND:** (front) M Parnell (Bath); T Stimpson (Leicester); W Wood (Northampton); J Lewsey (Leicester); A Huxley (Leicester); J Millhouse (Gloucester); M Bennett (Northampton, capt); G Hogganville (Leicester); W Cockerill (Leicester); P Vickery (Gloucester); G Archer (Newcastle); D Greenwood (Sussex); B Clarke (Richmond); S Ojomoh (Gloucester); P Sanderson (Sale); T Morgan (Sale); S Brown (Richmond); S Bantle (Gloucester); A Dwyer (Saracens); B Swales (Bath); D Sims (Gloucester); W Green (Wales); P Greening (Gloucester).



Surfer, thinker, All Black: the one and only Josh Kronfeld

The world's greatest open-side flanker does not fit into the mould of the traditional New Zealand rugby player. Chris Hewett met him

A QUARTER of a century ago, the average New Zealand forward fell into one of two categories; there were the "Grizz Wyllies" - fierce, monosyllabic and a total nightmare to play against, but generally well behaved in polite society - and the "Keith Murdoch's", who boasted precisely the same qualities apart from being total nightmares off the pitch as well as on it. It can be reported with considerable relief that the era of the unsmiling, granite-faced All Black seems to have disappeared. Nowadays, we have weird, wonderful, off-beat characters like Josh Kronfeld to entertain us.

To refer to the finest open-side flanker in the world as a one-off is akin to describing Jonah Lomu as quite well-built. Kronfeld is pure, silver-ferned bohemian, a one-man bonfire of conventional rugby attitudes; a beach bum, surfer, har-

monica player, environmentalist, ornithologist and outspoken supporter of what he gently describes as "progressive causes", he is about as far removed from the humourless, lantern-jawed Colin Meades of All Black legend as is Carisbrook from Twickenham.

Disturbingly for England, Kronfeld's idiosyncratic habits do not extend to his rugby activities, even though he once painted a "No Nukes" symbol on his familiar black headgear in protest at the French Government's testing programme in the Pacific. When it comes to scavenging for possession among the flying footwear, burying opposing outside-halves with extreme prejudice or linking with his three-quarters in the wide open prairies, he fits snugly into the grand New Zealand tradition of Nathan, Mourie and Michael Jones.

"When I was 15," he said in Dunedin yesterday, two days before his 27th birthday, "Michael was the man. I didn't want to be an All Black, especially. I just wanted to be Michael. It was the nearest moment of my whole career when I got to play alongside Michael in a Test back row. To be out there with the silver fern on my chest and my mentor by my side... Well, it was pretty special."

There has been something special about Kronfeld these last three years. After winning his first cap in the 73-7 demolition of Canada in Auckland in 1995, he proceeded to blaze a trail through that year's World Cup with some definitive displays of close, rapid support work. His try against England in what became known as the "Lomu semi" was adjudged the finest of the tournament and Joel Stranksy, the beautifully balanced Springbok stand-off,

needed all his wit and party trickery to lead his pursuer up the occasional blind alley in the final.

Kronfeld smiles at the memory. "No matter who you are or how well you think you're playing, there is always someone out there with the skill to give you the odd 30-second burn. All you can do is accept it. I say 'Hey, you, smoked me there', and then get out there and pin him next time. Anyway, I don't go into a game with my mind set on getting one over on any particular opponent, even if my coach thinks I should. I'm out there to win ball and act as a link whenever and wherever I can. Simple as that."

As an up-and-coming Otago breakthrough, Kronfeld made two promises to himself. "I decided early that if I hadn't become an All Black by the time I'd hit 24, I would give it up and do something else. As

it turned out, I made it at 24. And the second promise? That I'd stop playing international rugby at 29. I'll stick to it, too. I'll play at Test or Super 12 level for another couple of years - I've set my heart on being involved in next year's World Cup - and then pull out. There are other things in life, after all."

"It's not the actual playing that I find difficult these days, although I have to say professional rugby is tough on the mind and body, it's the 24-hour routine that gets to me. I'd love to go for a beer or two with my mates at five on a Friday night but if I do that, I know there will be 20 guys at the bar who'll also want a beer with me. That's the thing about being an All Black and, sometimes, it closes in on you."

Life after rugby holds few fears for Kronfeld, whose passion for the great outdoors has never been more

intense. "I live near the beach at St Clair and I surf all year round. Then there's the wildlife out on the Otago peninsula, the sheer majesty of the whole area. We don't have much heavy industry here, nothing to wreck the environment. Sometimes, I feel I never want to leave."

Yet he might leave, if the rugby money is right. English clubs have already approached him through his "representatives" and Kronfeld confesses he would be "plain stupid" to dismiss a lucrative opportunity to capitalise on his golden reputation in the northern hemisphere. "It's all telephone talk and I'm not directly involved, but it's nice to get news of the offers as they come in. Maybe I'll go for it, maybe not. How's the surfing in England these days?"

In answer to his question, the surfing is in infinitely better shape than the inexperienced and over-

matched England side he faces in his own backyard tomorrow. He is not remotely dismissive of the likes of Pat Sanderson and Josh Lewsey, however; typically, he steers well clear of the party line and gives voice to his own oblique view of the skirmish ahead.

"I think this whole trip is good for the England team and if I was one of their new caps coming into Test rugby, I'd be up in the clouds at the prospect of making a debut against a side like the All Blacks. Jeez, what more could a rugby player want? When we were rebuilding before the last World Cup, the public was right on our backs. What happened? We came up with a new team that played new rugby and very nearly won the trophy. England will have a new look soon and it will be as a result of this tour."

Photographs: Allsport

Scotland seek patience

JOHN RUTHERFORD, the Scotland assistant coach, is demanding patience from his side if they are to break down a dominant Australian team which has so far conceded just three points in two Tests.

The Scots go into tomorrow's second match with the Wallabies in Brisbane still recovering from the 45-3 mauling in Sydney at the weekend, which came hard on the heels of their record-breaking 76-0 annihilation of England just over two weeks ago.

Obviously for Scotland, the Australians, who are already looking ahead to their Tri-Nations battles with New Zealand and South Africa, say they need to improve even more.

The scene is set for Scotland's ninth successive defeat against the Aussies, although Rutherford is confident the scoreline will not be so one-sided. "If you analyse our play last Saturday the line-outs were shown

to be poor. We will be a lot better on Saturday. We will also defend a lot better than last week," Rutherford, who has been capped 42 times, said.

"We may have to go through five or six phases of play to get through the Wallabies' defence, so we have to have patience. They base their defence on rugby league. In fact they have a specialised coach to help them with their defensive play."

"Australia are also very good at slowing up possession and in international rugby it is quick ball that backs depend on. The problem last week was that a lot of our breaks were from within our own half. Moreover Australia are very good at following the breaking player."

But the former Scotland and Selkirk stand-off is aware that if Scotland are to improve, they must make amends for their shortcomings. "In the first Test when we had the ball in

hand we didn't use our options. Glenn Metcalfe in particular found it difficult to break through first tackles," he said.

The Scotland coach, Jim Telfer, has already selected the same team for the second Test, with one enforced change as Stirling County hooker Kevin McKenzie has replaced Gordon Bullock, who dislocated a shoulder.

Telfer defended his decision to avoid a purge following their opening failure. He said: "It is the same team but we still think it's the best 15 to put on the park."

"We played very well for more than 30 minutes in the first Test and I think we can build on that. There may have been some expectation in the first Test that it was going to be just a little bit tougher than New South Wales [Scotland won 34-10], but it was a lot tougher on the same pitch."

Australia right wing Ben Tune and the coach, Rod Macqueen, are both



McKenzie: Replaces Bullock

predicting things could get worse for Scotland before they get better.

"Last weekend's match against Scotland gave us the pressure that we needed and it woke us up a bit," said Tune. "We realised that we still have a long way to go before we play the All Blacks [on 11 July]."

Ireland retain Hickie

THE IRISH wing Denis Hickie was given a vote of confidence last night when Ireland named an unchanged side to take on the Springboks at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria tomorrow.

Hickie was demoted to the team that secured a hard-earned 26-18 win against provincial South African team, North West, on Tuesday. He came through unscathed and convinced his coach, Warren Gatland, that he should retain his Test place.

Hickie took most of the blame for the brilliant start by Springbok winger Stefan Terblanche, who scored four tries in his Test debut during South Africa's 37-13 win over Ireland at the weekend.

The Irish management were cagey about disclosing why the winger had clung onto his place. "Only Ciaran Clarke impressed us

against North West and the rest of the Test side have performed well as a unit, so there was no reason to change them," the manager, Donal Lenihan, said. "Denis is in the side because we are happy with his form, and that's all."

Wales meet the Natal Sharks at Durban's King's Park today and even without their seven current Springboks, the Sharks look capable of inflicting a third successive tour defeat on the Welsh.

To make matters worse, Wales had to reshuffle their line-up yesterday after two further injuries on what has become a highly disrupted tour. Both centres Leigh Davies and second row Mark Jones have been ruled out through injuries which have brought their tour duty to an end.

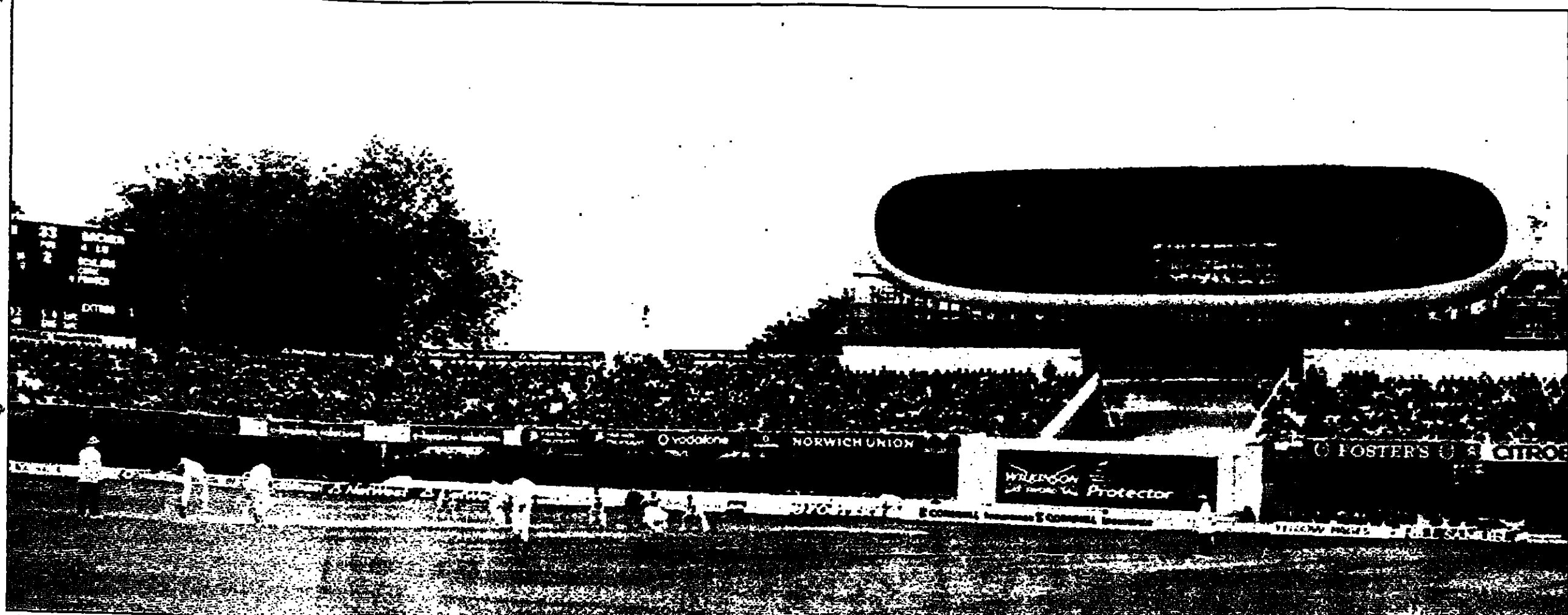
Davies has a knee injury and Jones an abscess on his back. They

will fly home today, joining early tour casualties David Weatherley, Scott Quinnell and Rob Appleyard. Davies is replaced in the Welsh side by Mark Taylor of Swansea, while Newport's Ian Gough is called up in place of Jones. "It is a big blow losing more players through injury but at least the boys who have come in are capable of performing well," Howley said.

"We are under no illusions about the strength of Natal but I would not be going out there if I did not think we had a chance."

IRELAND (v South Africa, Pretoria, tomorrow): O'Shea; Bishop, McCall, Moggie, Hickie; Elwood, McGovern, Costello, Ward, O'Connell, O'Kelly, John (capt), Wallace, Henderson, Humphreys. **REPLACEMENTS:** O'Meara, Brennan. **WALES** (v Natal Sharks, Durban, today): S Haywood, W Proctor, D Jones, M Taylor, G Evans, Williams, P Howley (capt), D Morris, B Jones, C Davies, I Gough, A Moore, M Williams, J Funnell, P John, M Griffiths, G Jenkins, C Wyatt, N Thomas.

Second Test: Rhodes and Cronje launch South African recovery after Cork makes the early breakthrough



The new press box towers over Lord's on the first day's play of the second Test between England and South Africa yesterday. The structure has not been completed yet and will not be used until next year

Peter Jay

England fail to build on flying start

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Lord's

South Africa 135-4 v England

GLOOMY, INTERRUPTED days are meant to favour bowlers not batsmen and, until Jonty Rhodes and Hansie Cronje set about England's bowling, the theory was running true to form. In danger of being crushed after Dominic Cork's four-wicket burst had removed their early order, South Africa recovered to something approaching parity at the end of a day in which 56 overs were lost to bad light and rain.

Having won the toss, England, though not Cork, will be more than a little disappointed. In helpful conditions, and after a dream start, they squandered their advantage - although Cronje later claimed he would have batted anyway - by bowling an unacceptable number of

four balls. In fact 78 of the eventual 135 runs scored came from boundaries, an unusually high proportion in seamer-friendly conditions.

While it is true that a breezy strokeplayer like Rhodes can disrupt a bowler's concentration, line and length - about all that are needed when heavy cloud and a damp pitch are involved - should be a basic ability to which all professional bowlers can resort if needs be. England forgot this and Cork and Fraser's early spells apart, the howling lacked the necessary discipline.

Cork opened, as he so often does, with an over of liquorice allsorts. A first-ball bouncer was followed by a couple of unplayable deliveries, before a wide half-volley, gift-wrapped, duly presented itself to Gary Kirsten.

It was the only scoring shot Kirsten managed as he suc-

cumbed to the first ball of Cork's second over. So often the steadfast anchor around which his chancier team-mates float their cameos, Kirsten was undone by a ball whose steep bounce brought a change of mind, the batsman's late attempt to shoulder arms delayed just long enough for the ball to find its way on to the stumps via the under edge of the bat.

For South Africa, who lost the toss, it was the worst kind of start to a day that eventually got under way at 1.30pm, following some persistent drizzle in the morning. Prospects, always uncertain when heavy cloud cover shrouds Lord's, did not improve when, two overs later, Jacques Kallis was bowled for a duck.

Kallis, who played for Middlesex last season and one who should be well aware of the little idiosyncrasies of the square

here, was undone more by the pair of scorers that preceded his dismissal than the ball that actually got him out. Twice beaten by extravagant movement down the slope, he planted both bat and front leg inside the line of a ball that pitched on, and then hit, off-stump.

At that point, rain sent everyone scurrying and the hover cover arrived to take its place over the pitch. Earlier, in an understated ceremony that was typically English, the Duke of Edinburgh had cut the ribbon to the magnificent £11.5m Grand Stand, a structure that has boosted the ground's capacity to just over 30,000.

For the home of cricket, Lord's has become something of a high-tech mecca. Nevertheless, when play resumed 75 minutes later, it was the old-fashioned virtues of aggressive line and length that brought further reward for

Cork. Given a second wind by the break for rain, the Derbyshire captain, still finding the regular swing of old elusive, managed to test and tempt in equal measure with his commendably full length.

Getting batsmen to play shots is a crucial aspect of taking wickets. It was a knock that was possessed by Cork's hero, Ian Botham, and it was significant that Adam Bacher, preferred here to Gerhardus Liebenberg, had just cover-driven Cork to the boundary before a repeat of the shot found the outside edge.

As catches go, it would have stretched Alec Stewart's recovered back just enough for the one that followed. On his day, Daryll Cullinan is a class act and a dangerous one. Having come through a torrid few overs, he was just beginning to look settled when, aiming to force Cork off the back foot, he

edged behind. With the adrenalin flowing, Stewart was confident enough to grab the chance out of first slip's lap.

At that point South Africa were 46 for 4 and struggling. Indeed after tea, England should have made their day at headquarters a thoroughly miserable one. Instead, Jonty Rhodes, the visitor's saviour at Edgbaston, was dropped at third slip in Dean Headley's first over. Michael Atherton only able to parry the edge as it flashed through at shoulder height.

An over later, Rhodes responded with a crisply hooked six off Cork, before being caught by Atherton off a no-ball. Uncowed by these close calls, Rhodes continued to throw the bat, a tactic that appeared to confuse England, who suddenly started to bowl erratically.

Following the steady but

luckless Angus Fraser from the Pavilion End, Headley conceded 24 runs from only three overs. Perhaps over-eager to prove his worth after being missing out at Edgbaston, the Kent fast bowler never settled, and Rhodes was given ample width upon which to feed his whirling bat.

The nature of the blitz even encouraged the cautious Hansie Cronje to join in and England surrendered the initiative as the pair added a rapid 88 before the fourth stoppage of the day brought proceedings to a close.

With a heatwave promised by the weekend, England will have to part this pair promptly this morning, if the initial advantage offered by winning the toss is to prove decisive. Barring last, as England must now do, is no easy task when the opposition have a decent total on the board.

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

England win toss	
SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings	
A M Bacher c Stewart b Cork	22
(63 min, 48 balls, 4 fours)	
G Kirsten b Cork	4
(13 min, 7 balls, 1 four)	
J H Kallis b Cork	0
(10 min, 8 balls)	
D J Cullinan c Stewart b Cork	16
(48 min, 36 balls, 3 fours)	
*W J Cronje not out	38
(90 min, 61 balls, 5 fours)	
J N Rhodes not out	16
(80 min, 54 balls, 7 fours, 1 six)	
Extras (b3, nb5)	8
Total (for 4, 154 min, 34 overs)	135
Fall: 1-8 (Kirsten), 2-16 (Kallis), 3-43 (Bacher), 4-46 (Cullinan).	
To bat: S M Pollock, L Klusener, I M V Boucher, P R Adams, A Donald.	
Bowling: Fraser 14-3-38-0 (10-3-28-0 4-4-10-0), Cork 14-3-51-4 (10-3-28-0 4-4-10-0), Ealham 3-0-17-0 (one spell each).	
England - First Innings	
Progress: West outfield delayed start until 1.25pm. Rain stopped play 1.50-3.15pm 21-2 (Boucher 13, Cullinan 4) 6.3 overs, 50-78 min, 17 overs. Test 52-4 (Cronje 3, Rhodes 4) 19 overs, 100-122 min, 27.1 overs. Bad light stopped play 2.55-3.15pm 118-4 (Cronje 32, Rhodes 39) 31 overs. Bad light stopped play 3.45pm.	
England - Second Innings	
Extras (b3, nb5)	
Total (for 4, 154 min, 34 overs)	
Fall: 1-8 (Kirsten), 2-16 (Kallis), 3-43 (Bacher), 4-46 (Cullinan).	
To bat: S M Pollock, L Klusener, I M V Boucher, P R Adams, A Donald.	
Bowling: Fraser 14-3-38-0 (10-3-28-0 4-4-10-0), Cork 14-3-51-4 (10-3-28-0 4-4-10-0), Ealham 3-0-17-0 (one spell each).	

Rhodes pulls off stroke of genius Lara undoes Knight's work

HENRY BLOFELD
at Lord's

WHILE DOMINIC Cork was the hero for England on a day of brilliant cricket even if it only lasted for 34 overs, Jonty Rhodes will rightly have received a similar welcome when he returned to the South African dressing-room. He had launched a most inspiring counter-attack and by the end had communicated his exuberant enthusiasm to his more stolid partner, Hansie Cronje, who was his partner.

In the first Test match at Edgbaston, Rhodes had played

an outstanding innings of 95 in which he had demonstrated how much he has worked on his batting in the last few months. A rather frenetic batsman who shuffled across his stumps, often playing across the line of the ball, has now turned into a most decisive stroke-maker whose bat invariably comes down straight.

He came in when South Africa were 46 for 4 and in deep trouble. Daryll Cullinan had been out to the last ball of the 16th over. In the next over Rhodes faced Angus Fraser's last two balls. The second was barely short and yet Rhodes

went on to the back foot and drove him decisively past cover point for four. Fraser will have been hard-pressed to believe what he saw.

When the players returned after a break of an hour and a quarter for rain, Rhodes drove at a wide one from Dean Headley in his first over and Mike Atherton dropped a difficult catch above his head at third slip. It was a naughty stroke by Rhodes and you could see that he knew it from the way he walked away to square leg, ticking himself off and trying to collect his concentration.

Down at the other end for the next over, he faced Cork. The ball was well up to the bat, on or just outside the leg stump, and Rhodes drove him wide of mid-on for four.

It was not only the stroke of the day, it was the stroke of the summer, but just in case there was any doubt about it later in the same over he swivelled with marvellous quick footwork and pulled Cork from outside the off stump into the new Grandstand for six. That one will be remembered for a long time, too.

It is not easy to keep up the tempo on a day which is being

broken up into small pieces by the rain. Apart from the batsman having to re-acustom himself to the light and the bowling as well as the pace of the pitch, these breaks make it difficult for him to hold on to his concentration.

But it was no problem for Rhodes. Rain and bad light cost another 16 overs in the middle of the evening session, and when the players returned Rhodes at once drove Mark Ealham through the covers. In Ealham's next over Cronje did likewise, and you could almost feel Rhodes's influence in this stroke.

Rhodes has always been one of the great contemporary cricketing entertainers with his fielding, and his batting has become just about as compelling. In this remarkable innings it is fair to say that he batted as he fields.

He provided non-stop enjoyment and even the most partisan English supporters will have found it hard to be so about Rhodes. He communicates fun and enjoyment whether batting or fielding in a way which transcends all boundaries and makes him unique among modern cricketers.

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Hove

Sussex v Warwickshire

THE SCENE was well set yesterday afternoon for Brian Lara to rack up a fourth batting point for Warwickshire and then stroke his way to his first century of the season. His opening batsmen had both made substantial centuries, and he strode in to face Jason Lewry with his team rock solid at 342 for 2. The pressure, surely, was off.

Lewry dipped the first delivery into Lara's pads, but the umpire, Mervyn Kitchen, relieved the Warwickshire captain. Not so second ball, the repeated thud that rewarded Lewry giving Lara his second successive duck. He has only batted beyond 50 twice this season, and averages just 22. His team are near the bottom of the table, and urgently need their captain to reward them with mental inspiration and runs.

From the platform provided by the openers, Michael Powell and Nick Knight, it seems hard to credit that Warwickshire could not climb to that fourth bonus point. David Hemp, who came in first wicket on Wednesday night, was as becalmed as the Ancient Mariner in a Hove sea-fret, and when the cut-off point of 120

overs passed, Warwickshire were on 343, seven short, and he had spent 33 overs compiling 17 painful runs.

The first session, however, has seen Knight consolidate his overnight century and eventually move beyond the 150 mark. He had made his point to the England selectors, who, in calling for Steve James, confirm that they see Knight as a one-day man, but the Warwickshire opener will not see this as one of his most fluent efforts even though he came within 16 runs of a career-best score. The flowing drives were few, probably outnumbered by snicks, and he batted for seven and a half hours, but it was a determined and restorative exercise.

A comparative clatter of wickets followed Lara's dismissal, and the Warwickshire spinners, Neil Smith and Ashley Giles, will have noted that they fell to the slow left-arm of Toby Peirce - his first scalp - and the brisker left-arm spin of Michael Bevan. But at 4.45 a murky day became wet as well, and play stopped for two hours. At the time they are normally taking their evening shower, the players trooped out on to an almost empty ground, attempting to complete a further 20 overs. So far, evening Championship cricket has been unable to compete with bad weather and the football World Cup.

Yorkshire in a spin

NICKY PHILLIPS, the Durham off-spinner bowled unchanged for 42 overs at Chester-Le-Street yesterday to take a career-best four for 70 in the County Championship match against Yorkshire.

Following his captain David Boon's marathon innings of 139 not out, Phillips was on in the 10th over as Yorkshire replied to Durham's 337 with 235 for 8. The depleted visitors were indebted to opener Michael

Vaughan, who batted for 332 minutes to make 118 not out. He hit just six fours, most of them during an opening stand of 62 with Anthony McGrath. Vaughan now has the chance to become the first Yorkshire player to carry his bat since Geoff Boycott made 55 out of 131 against Surrey at Sheffield in 1985. Phillips, whose confidence was boosted by the early scalp of Darren Lehmann, found enough turn to keep all the batsmen tied down

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Lancashire v Surrey

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 1 of 4)
No play yesterday due to rain

Durham v Yorkshire

RIVERSIDE (Day 2 of 4) Yorkshire (5pts) trail Durham (6pts) by 102 runs with 2 first innings wickets in hand.

Yorkshire won toss

DURHAM - First Innings Over/Out 311-7 (Speak 57)

First Innings Control

*D Boon not out	139	0	12	365	405
M M Bevan b Hoggard	18	0	0	55	80
J Wood c Byles b Hamilton	0	0	0	3	7
S J Harrison run out	2	0	0	11	21
Extras (b15, nb4)	19				
Total (113.4 overs)	337				
Fall: 1-13, 2-35, 3-104, 4-112, 5-205, 6-250, 7-273, 8-323, 9-336.					
Bowling: M J Hoggard 22-5-79-2, P M Hutchinson 24-1-5-55-3, G M Hamilton 20-3-4-56-2, R J Sheehan 17-4-58-1, R D Stamp 25-6-60-1, D S Lehmann 5-0-12-0.					
YORKSHIRE - First Innings					
A McGrath c Speight b Harrison	31	0	4	54	61
M P Vaughan not out	118	0	6	263	332
*D Byles b Harrison	6	0	1	9	9
D S Lehmann st Speight b Phillips	1	0	0	9	11
M J Wood bow b Phillips	14	0	1	32	44
W B Staley c Collingwood b Beets	19	0	1	45	38
G M Hamilton c Lewis b Phillips	19	0	1	45	38
R D Stamp b Phillips	3	0	0	42	46
P M Hutchinson c Gough b Beets	3	0	0	40	38
R J Sheehan not out	1	0	0	40	38
Extras (b2, nb5, nb22)	235				
Total (for 8, 82 overs)	411				
Fall: 1-62, 2-76, 3-104, 4-97, 5-140, 6-171, 7-193, 8-222.					
To bat: M J Hoggard.					
Bowling: M M Beets 20-4-56-2, J Wood 31-40-0, N C Phillips 42-11-70-4, S J Harrison 15-4-43-2, M J Foster 5-1-13-0, N J Speak 1-0-0-0.					
Umpires: G I Burgess and T E Jesty.					

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

CARDIFF (Day 2 of 4): Glamorgan (2pts), Leicestershire (0pts)

Leicestershire won toss

No Play Yesterday - Rain

Umpires: D R Shepherd and A Clarkson.

Hampshire v Derbyshire

BASINGSTOKE (Day 2 of 4): Hampshire (2pts), Derbyshire (1pt)

Derbyshire won toss

DERBYSHIRE - First Innings 245-6 (A S Rollins 89)

No Play Yesterday - Rain

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater.

Kent v Nottinghamshire

CANTERBURY (Day 2 of 4): Kent (4pts) trail Nottinghamshire (5pts) by 153 runs with three first innings wickets in hand.

Kent won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First Innings Over/Out 184-2

First Innings Control

J E R Gallian bow b De la Pena	32	0	8	246	414
R T Robinson run out	46	0	7	165	253
*P Johnson c Ward b Fleming	46	0	8	68	88
G F Archer c Walker b De la Pena	1	0	0	5	7
P J Franks bow b Fleming	3	0	0	15	16
*C M W Reed c Marsh b Fleming	8	0	0	13	16
P A Sprang not out	23	0	3	30	49
M N Bowen c Ward b Phillips	16	0	2	26	28
A R Gray run out	1	0	0	3	5
Extras (b13, w10, nb8)	31				
Total (109 overs)	399				
Fall: 1-24, 2-54, 3-186, 4-235, 5-243, 6-258, 7-259, 8-272, 9-303.					
Bowling: M J McCague 25-7-68-1, B J Phillips 22-7-73-1, J De la Pena 21-2-54-2, M V Fleming 19-4-49-4, C L Hooper 10-4-51-0.					
KENT - First Innings					
D P Fulton c Read b Franks	39	0	4	57	28
R W T Key not out	29	0	9	155	217
M J Walker c Robinson b Franks	0	0	0	3	5
C L Hooper c Read b Franks	7	0	1	15	17

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

CORNHILL INSURANCE SECOND TEST (Day 2 of 5):

Leeds: England v South Africa.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Day 2 of 4):

Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey (12.00).

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Day 3 of 4):

Riverside: Durham v Yorkshire, Cardiff: Glamorgan v Leicestershire (12.00), Bath: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Canterbury: Kent v Nottinghamshire, Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex (12.00), Bletchley: Somerset v Essex.

Now: Sussex v Warwickshire (13.00), Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire.

Warwickshire v Gloucestershire

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings Over/Out 276-1 (Powell 132)

First Innings Control

N V Knight b Lewry	159	0	15	347	477
D L Kemp c Humphries b Bevan	19	0	0	100	159
*B C Lara bow b Lewry	0	0	0	2	7
T L Penney not out	26	0	0	87	207
D R Piper c Edwards b Peirce	8	0	0	20	20
H J Brown c Adams b Bevan	7	0	0	28	28
G Welch not out	18	0	3	26	136
Extras (b10, nb20, w2, nb10)	42				
Total (for 6, 148.3 overs)	411				
Fall: 1-272, 2-342, 3-342, 4-348, 5-361, 6-382.					
To bat: M M K Smith, A F Giles, E S H Giddins.					
Bowling: J D Lewry 29-3-75-2, R J Kirtley 30-7-69-0, M A Robinson 33-6-95-1, A D Edwards 21-6-72-0, M G Bevan 23-2-78-2, C J Adams 3-0-0-0, M T E Peirce 9-2-16-1.					
SUSSEX - First Innings					
M T E Peirce, W G Khan, M Newell, *C J Adams, M G Bevan, J R Carpenter, A D Edwards, 15 Humphries, R J Kirtley, J D Lewry, M A Robinson.					
Umpires: M J Kitchen and J W Lloyds.					

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

WORCESTER (Day 2 of 4): No bonus points

Worcestershire won toss

GLoucestershire - First Innings 37-0

No play yesterday due to rain

Umpires: H D Bird and P Wiley.

Second XI Championship

(Second day of three)

Forsters Oval: Surrey v Northants, no play today due to rain

Tadlington: Middlesex v Worcestershire, Middlesex 84-1

No play yesterday.

Panage: Essex 103 for 0 v Glamorgan. No play yesterday.

County v North Warwick: Warwickshire v Sussex. No play yesterday.

Flackham: Derbyshire 181-4 (J M S Weston 68no) v Hampshire

Middlebrough: Durham 213 and 165-0 (M A Roseberry 100 no, S Hutton 84 no) Yorkshire 189 (N Killeen 4-68)

Trent Bridges: Leicestershire 198 and 21-2, Nottinghamshire 248, No play yesterday

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 19 June 1998

Kournikova holds off a histrionic Graf

BY JOHN ROBERTS
at Eastbourne

WHILE LOSING to Anna Kournikova yesterday, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, Steffi Graf cried out in exasperation. "Is anybody watching this game here?" Everybody was - her duel with the 17-year-old Russian was compelling stuff, one of the best women's matches for ages - but not to Graf's satisfaction.

As far as the seven-times Wimbledon champion was concerned, the line judges were not paying close enough attention during her quarter-final at the Direct Line Insurance Championships, and she asked for them to be substituted. "You try to have a professional approach, and you expect this from the umpires as well," Graf said. "There were too many

wrong calls. You expect a few mistakes, but not that many." Graf was not placated when told by an official that it was possible to reposition one judge, but not two. "One judge is nothing," she said. "It was not only the service line but the baseline as well. They didn't do the job." After a short pause, Graf added: "I didn't do the job, either."

In that respect, she was being rather hard on herself. Still short of match practice after missing the best part of a year as a result of injuries to her left leg, Graf competed impressively for two hours against one of the most exciting prospects in the sport, a player 12 years her junior.

Kournikova, a Wimbledon semi-finalist last year, has improved her grass-court skills almost beyond recognition, one of the benefits of working with Graf's former coach, Pavel

Slozil. Not only was she able to match Graf forehand for forehand, but she also showed a refreshing inclination to approach the net and volley confidently.

Graf defeated Kournikova, 6-2, 6-1, in their previous match in the last 16 at the 1996 United States Open, but, as the Russian reminded us yesterday: "I was 14 and she was the No 1, and nobody could beat her then."

Following her victory yesterday, Kournikova visited hospital for a check-up after her hurting her racket hand in a fall during the seventh game of the final set. On returning to Devonshire Park, she withdrew from the doubles but otherwise smiled away any worries.

"How's the hand?" she said to reporters. "Haven't you anything else to say to me, like congratulations?" Graf's rare display of histrionics underlined how keen she

is to make an impressive comeback at Wimbledon. As early as the fourth game of the match, she turned towards spectators at the back of the court and said: "Are you able to see that call?" There was a chorus of "Yes" and a good deal of laughter.

Kournikova, broken when serving for the first set at 5-4, lost the subsequent tie-break 7-4. Although broken again, double-faulting three times when serving for the second set, at 5-1, she had built enough confidence to absorb the set-back.

During the second game of the final set, a Kournikova smash struck Graf on her racket hand, hurting her for the rest of the match. That appeared to be the least of her concerns. In the fifth game, after breaking back for 2-3, Graf was incensed by a call, saying to the umpire: "Come on, it's not possible here."

A scream of "No!" echoed around the Centre Court as a Graf forehand down the line was ruled out, giving Kournikova a break point at 4-4. "Come on, that's enough. There are too many mistakes here," Graf said to Brenda Perry, the WTA tour director, who was standing in the entrance to the court.

Graf then double-faulted on a second break point. Finally, frustrated by a call which denied her a 40-0 lead when Kournikova was serving for the match at 5-4, Graf shouted: "Come on, it's a joke here." The play was hugely entertaining. ■ Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, one of only three seeds surviving in the Nottingham Open, reached the quarter-finals yesterday when he defeated South Africa's Grant Stafford 6-2, 6-3 in 70 minutes. Only three matches started on another day badly affected by rain.



Steffi Graf argues with the umpire during her defeat yesterday

Aspsport

FIRST SHOW

Ascot 2.30

Home	C	H	L	S	T
Central Park	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5

Ascot 4.20

Home	C	H	L	S	T
Central Park	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
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Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5

Ascot 3.45

Home	C	H	L	S	T
Central Park	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5
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Chelmsford	1	2	3	4	5

RACING RESULTS

ROYAL ASCOT

2.30 (m) 4th (King George Handicap)	1. BAYNARD (m) 4th (King George Handicap)
2.30 (m) 4th (King George Handicap)	2. BAYNARD (m) 4th (King George Handicap)
2.30 (m) 4th (King George Handicap)	3. BAYNARD (m) 4th (King George Handicap)
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Ascot 3.45

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Ascot 4.20

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Ascot 3.45

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THE INDEPENDENT
RACING SERVICES
0891 261 +
LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS
ROYAL ASCOT
AVE
BEDCAR
NEWARK
GOODWOOD
NEHAM
ALL RESULTS
0891 261 970
Call and see for details. T.V. on 500 and 501

AYR

2.20 Seconds Awe 2.55 Sunny Chief 3.30
Rich Glow 4.05 Night Vixen 4.40 Captain
Logan 5.15 Marniequin

2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15

2.20 AYRSHIRE NIS APPRENTICE SELLING
HANDICAP (C) £2,500 1m

2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15
2.20	2.55	3.30	4.05	4.40	5.15

GOODWOOD

6.35 Grace 7.05 Smooth Sailing 7.35 Titta Rulo
8.05 Court Shareef 8.35 Sweet Wilhelmine
9.05 Mubli

6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05

6.35 CAPITAL GOLD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (C) £5,000 8f

6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05

7.05 WILEY EUROPE HANDICAP (CLASS D)
£7,500 added 1m

7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35

7.35 GEOFFREY OSBORNE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,500 1m 11f 2yds

7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05

HEXHAM

6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55
6.25	6.55	7.25	7.55	8.25	8.55

HYPERION

6.35 Grace 7.05 Smooth Sailing 7.35 Titta Rulo
8.05 Court Shareef 8.35 Sweet Wilhelmine
9.05 Mubli

6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05

6.35 CAPITAL GOLD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (C) £5,000 8f

6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05
6.35	7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05

7.05 WILEY EUROPE HANDICAP (CLASS D)
£7,500 added 1m

7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35
7.05	7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35

winners today show less than 90 per cent but yesterday over this trip at Newbury by blunders.

HANDICAP (CLASS D)

7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
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7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
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7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.05
7.35	8.05	8.35	9.05	9.35	10.0

Batty and Ince must get close to Romania

THERE IS a great deal of satisfaction in the England camp after the victory over Tunisia and rightly so. We looked solid throughout and in the end were comfortable winners of a game that was always going to be awkward because it was the first of the competition. It set us up nicely for Romania on Monday, a make-or-break game because it should decide who comes out on top of Group G.

There are still areas of concern, however, and the big worry I had about the England performances before the tournament was that the central midfield players were not closing the ball down quickly enough. Against Portugal we saw the dangers of allowing



JACK CHARLTON

the opposition to run at your back four. The central defenders are only as good as the midfield allows.

The problem comes when players get behind the ball and

assume their job is done when in fact it's only part of the job. They have to get close enough to the ball to prevent the other player from making the final pass which threatens to unlock your defence. You must not allow the opposition time to lift their head and see the final ball.

In the last 10 minutes of the Tunisian game I felt the midfield players went back to old habits and I was concerned to see Graeme Le Saux give his winger room to make the cross. You've got to remain concentrated the full 90 minutes. You never see Italy or Argentina getting done by late goals. On the contrary, they are more likely to be scoring them in that time.

David Batty and Paul Ince

are the best players to do that job, but my concern before the Tunisian game was that we did not have enough forward-looking players in that area of the field. Neither of them are the best passers in the world and I don't like to see Batty take possession off the back four and settle for knocking the ball square or behind him.

You have to feel sorry for David Beckham, who was left out to make way for Darren Anderton, but the England camp can not afford to have a brooding, disaffected presence around the place and the sooner Beckham understands that the better.

The coach can pick only 11 players and in that respect

Glenn Hoddle has an unenviable job. The chances are that Beckham will get his chance as the competition goes on. Somebody will pick up an injury, or Glenn will decide that one area of the team is not functioning as well as it might.

In my column a couple of weeks ago I mentioned that it wasn't until England's 1966 team reached the quarter-finals and the clash with Argentina that Geoff Hurst won a place in the team.

We had all been expecting Jimmy Greaves to score our World Cup goals, but in the event he was injured for the quarter-final with a nasty cut on his shin that turned a nice shade of blue and yellow. I know how

painful it was because when I went to touch it, Jimmy jumped a mile in the air. Because of that I don't believe Alf Ramsey dropped Jimmy Greaves from the World Cup, but it helped make up his mind.

Glenn will have spoken with Beckham, but it's important that no one puts any pressure on the coach. He has a hard enough job trying to satisfy all the hopes of the press and television and all the people back home. We have seen with Faustino Asprilla the upset and disruption that can occur when a player makes critical remarks of the manager. It's a Dutch allergy as well - they always seem to come up with a reason to cause internal dissent and

harm their chances. Glenn is doing a good job and he should be left alone to get on with it.

The England lads looked very concentrated and determined against Tunisia and that's a healthy sign. The mood will be upbeat in the camp but the players must keep their minds on the job in hand, because Romania now becomes the most important game in the group.

In the 1994 finals after Ireland's marvellous opening win over Italy it was a surprise to some that we then went and lost to Mexico. I always maintain that we would have beaten Mexico had the game been played anywhere but Orlando. It was hot in New Jersey

against the Italians (96 degrees), but in Florida it was 120 degrees at pitch level. It was also a midday kick-off. Everything seemed against us that day and thankfully England won't encounter those problems in Toulouse.

I would expect Hoddle to name an unchanged team. The only question mark would be over Batty, but in a way there's more of a case to be made to play him and Ince together in this game than there was against Tunisia. Romania have quick and skilful players and we will need our tackling players to get in quickly when the opposition have the ball inside our half. I fully expect them to do just that.



Gary Neville (centre) in possession as Martin Keown (left) and Rio Ferdinand play support roles during an England training session in La Baule David Ashdown

Neville ready for reveille

AMID ALL the fuss and furore over David Beckham's absence from the England team who began the World Cup against Tunisia, it was easy to overlook the fact that another Manchester United player, Gary Neville, had almost as much cause for complaint as Beckham.

He may not have played in every qualifying match, but Neville was an integral part of England's Euro 96 team and his outstanding form last season prompted many to believe he would be just as important to Glenn Hoddle's side in France 98.

It may still turn out that way, with Neville the likely replacement for the game against Romania in Toulouse on Monday should Gareth Southgate's foot injury prevent him from playing - Southgate's chances were rated yesterday as 60-40. However, for the moment only patience, a positive attitude

Playing the waiting game is nothing new for the England defender with Brazil on his mind. By Adam Szreter

and learning from bitter experience is preventing Neville from sharing Beckham's despair. "I was disappointed that I wasn't playing," he said, "but you get over that."

"You have to, long before the game starts because if you go into a game disappointed that you're not playing, you're not going to be in the right frame of mind to come on and do a job for the team."

"I've been left out of Cup finals and championship runs. It's not the first time I've missed an important game of football. But it is important how I respond to it and if I do get the chance, then we'll see how Gary Neville responds to being left out."

It was the second time in a fortnight that the 23-year-old Neville was faced with a personal setback, following his brother Phil's surprising exclusion from the England squad - something that hurt Gary almost as much as his younger brother. "I've spoken to him a couple of times," he said. "He's been away on holiday and as time passes by it gets easier to deal with. He'll be looking forward to next season now."

"It was very difficult to deal with at first, but then you realise that a lot of worse things can happen and it's out of my mind now. I told him to take the good out of it, if he could. That was the only advice I gave him be-

cause there will be some good that comes out of it. He'll be a lot stronger and he will get back into the England team, I can assure you of that."

Although he has yet to kick a ball in anger in France, Neville has hardly been wasting his time between games. Along with several other members of the England squad he was an interested spectator at the game in Nantes on Tuesday evening between Brazil and Morocco, keeping a particular eye on the celebrated Brazilian full-backs, Cafu and Roberto Carlos.

"I thought Cafu was outstanding," he said. "I'd heard before the game he was getting some stick for his crossing, but after the first two crosses he put in I just thought, 'I'm glad I don't play for Brazil.'"

"They were excellent, with such a strange way of playing as well. They don't seem to work as hard - I know they

probably do, but they don't seem to run about as much. They'll have an attack, then they'll all get behind the ball and so on. There's no real team play, just some sort of brilliance and then if it breaks down everyone gets back to start again."

"The two full-backs were the most hard-working players in the team. We play wing-backs with three at the back and they play it with two at the back. It's an amazing system; they're up and down all day long and they're so fast. The energy they must have - I've played wing-back myself and it's a difficult role."

Despite the fulsome praise, Neville believes the Brazilian defence is vulnerable and is confident that, if England got the chance - "We'd love them in the final," he said - there would be a way through. "If we didn't show the fear that we've seen when we've played them in the past, I would fancy us to do them damage at the back

with the players that we've got going forward."

"We've got great players all over the pitch, but especially in forward areas." One of those is another Manchester United colleague, Paul Scholes. "He has been absolutely magnificent in the last five or six games for England and his performance on Monday was top class," Neville said. "He does those sort of things for Manchester United but people probably notice it more when he does it for England."

"People have said it's the emergence of Paul Scholes, but it's not. It's just that he's coming into a very confident side, he's allowed to express himself and the position he plays is perfect for him."

Whether Neville will get the opportunity to express himself against Romania remains to be seen but it seems clear he will be ready, if and when his country needs him.



DIARY

THE GREAT England debate is blowing up into a raging controversy. Anderton or Beckham? Baked beans or no baked beans? The Football Association, concerned that every small boy's favourite snack contains too much sugar, have banned the bean from the team's hotel, though other nutritional experts believe that could jeopardise the team's chance of blasting their way to victory on 12 July. Bupa's Jane Edmond, said: "They are an excellent source of goodness and energy." Lisa Pearce, of Loughborough University, added: "Baked beans fit in well with a healthy diet because they are high in carbohydrate, low in fat and full of protein." Into the controversy stepped Roger Hunt, a winner with England in 1966 and a firm advocate of bean-power. "I ate beans," he declared. "Back then diets were not as important as they are now, although we are careful about what we ate." The decision has caused amazement among Heinz officials who also emphasised the health value of baked beans and who have won awards for reducing the sugar content by a fifth to around six per cent.

AN ENGLISH fan is threatening legal action against FIFA because Patrick Kluyvert's sending-off against Belgium cost him his chance of first prize in a fantasy football com-

petition. The fan has written to the governing body "in legal terms" making an official complaint because the Dutch striker will miss two games. Keith Cooper, the FIFA spokesman, said: "We have to take this semi-seriously as he is threatening action against us." Competitors win points depending on how players in their 'fantasy' teams perform in real matches and the fan has told the game's governing body he lost the chance of winning the £60,000 first prize when Kluyvert was banned for two games.

ENGLAND are enjoying themselves at the media's expense by competing to see how many song titles they can drop into interviews. Any player put before the cameras is given the name of a pop artist and has to slip as many song titles into the interview as possible. "It's funny to watch the players visibly relax once they have managed to work a title into the interview," Gareth Southgate said. Alan Shearer was delighted to use "Against All Odds" on camera while Southgate, given Wham or George Michael as his artist, described the team's headquarters in La Baule as "not exactly 'Club Tropicana'" while later, in a warning about leaking team selections, he slipped in "Careless Whisper". Tony Adams is the record holder with four titles in a single interview.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"If things don't work or we get tired, we do not have an alternative and it looks awful." *Don Eggen, the Norwegian defender, shows that even the players have doubts about their tactics.*

"I don't really know what you're talking about. I was about four. I think that's when I grabbed a surfboard for the first time." *America's Frankie Hejduk, who didn't realise Iran call his nation 'The Great Satan', explains what he was doing during the Tehran embassy siege of 1979.*

"I was calm when I came but it looks like to come with Colombia to the World Cup is a punishment, to suffer and not to enjoy." *Hernan Dario Gomez explains why he will resign his post as national coach when their tournament comes to an end.*

Apologetic Asprilla

BY TREVOR HAYLETT

EXECUTING AN about-turn as swift and unexpected as anything he can produce on the field, Faustino Asprilla yesterday apologised for his outburst against the Colombian coach and pleaded for the chance to be reinstated in his country's World Cup team.

"If the team coach considers my participation to be important, I am ready to submit willingly and in a disciplined way to the rules demanded in a World Cup," said a tearful Asprilla in a statement he read to reporters outside his Paris hotel.

"The coach decided to kick me out of the squad because of what I said. Nobody wants to continue being a part of this team more than I do. With

respect... through these words I would like to apologise to the president, to his executive, to the coach, to my colleagues and above all to the Colombian people."

It is a different stance from the one the former Newcastle striker took after Colombia's defeat by Romania on Monday when he criticised Hernan Dario Gomez's decision to substitute him late in the game and claimed the coach had his favourites in the team.

Gomez, who in an earlier twist yesterday announced that he was quitting after the World Cup, replied that the player should return home if he felt that way. When Asprilla failed to turn up for the next day's training Gomez said he had taken his own decision to exclude himself.

"We have been through difficult times but we still have a chance of going forward," Asprilla added. "On the field or off it, I will be urging on our team."

Gomez told Colombia's Radio Caracol he had not ruled out readmitting Asprilla. "The truth is, those are nice words by Faustino but I don't know what the decision will be."

He denied his decision to step down - the final group fixture with England a week today could be his last - was related to the Asprilla upset. "I'm on my way out, I've fulfilled my promise to bring Colombia to the World Cup," said Gomez who is known to be fed up with external criticism and interference from the Colombian President Ernesto Samper who tried to persuade Gomez to reconsider his Asprilla decision.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"Maldini is the winner, with his perennially innocent air of accidental champion. And he can win without foreign mercenaries, without Ronaldo, without Batistuta; with nothing but the dregs of a national championship in which Italians seem to have been relegated to stop-gaps."

La Repubblica eulogises about the victorious Italian side on pages 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as a large chunk of its sports section.

"This home-grown baldy provided the oxygen needed by a team which, in the second half especially, was out of control at times, despite being one man down."

La Stampa, you may be

surprised to learn, believes Roberto Baggio is Italy's midfield Ronaldo, hence the hair reference.

"Vastly saved Prohaska's face and kept the team's hopes alive. Now it is about time the coach decided to do something to help the team. In the first half Prohaska sent Haas on the pitch instead of Herzog but forgot to tell him what to do. Haas was unable to perform well due to a weak midfield."

Der Standard is scathing about Austria and their coach despite their late, late equaliser against Chile.

Compiled by Anne Hanley and Richard Wetherell

Bergkamp's first start

ARSENAL STRIKER Dennis Bergkamp yesterday confirmed that he will make his first start of France 98 in the Netherlands' Group E game against South Korea on Saturday.

The English Footballer of the Year began the Netherlands' opening match against Belgium on the bench last Saturday but came on during the second half of the goalless draw for the Leeds striker Jimmy Hasselbaink.

With Patrick Kluyvert suspended for two matches after being sent off at St Denis, Bergkamp's return to full fitness is particularly timely.

He said: "I feel really good. I'm going to start the match, although I don't know yet whether I'll be able to finish it."

German midfield players Thomas Hassler and Jens Jeremies returned to training yes-

terday, giving the European champions a boost before Sunday's tough Group F game with Yugoslavia.

Jeremies was unable to train on Wednesday because of an ankle strain. But he returned to some light jogging in the morning session.

Hassler, who has also injured an ankle, trained with the rest of the squad at their camp on the Côte d'Azur. Defender Jürgen Kohler, who has been suffering with a bruised calf, also took a full part in training which included a short game.

The Germans want to finish top of the group and avoid a possible showdown with the Netherlands in the second round.

A "secret number" to order World Cup tickets, given by a French newspaper yesterday, is wrong, the French organ-

ising committee (CFO) said. "We have checked with [French telephone operator] France Telecom and the number is wrong," said CFO spokesman Bruno Travade.

A student named only as Frederic told *Le Parisien* daily newspaper that a friend working for France Telecom had given him a secret direct number for tickets.

Yesterday, a taped voice answered the number given by the newspaper, saying: "Welcome to our services. For any inquiries or reservations, please call back later."

Two executives working for the French affiliate of FIFA's marketing partner were placed under formal legal examination on Wednesday by a court investigating allegations of a World Cup ticket fraud.

Bergkamp will start against Koreans

SUCH IS the gathering of the globe's footballing talent in France that luminaries of the game like Alessandro del Piero, Denilson and Dennis Bergkamp have yet to start a game while one of England's brightest, David Beckham, has not even appeared on the pitch.

Other significant names also yet to kick a ball in anger include Nigeria's Nwankwo Kanu and Yugoslavia's Dejan Savicevic. Their time is certain to come, but with all the competing nations having completed at least one game, the substitutes' benches are often as star-studded as the XI on the pitch.

In the case of Bergkamp, lingering hamstring injury problems are the only reason that the Arsenal striker started on the Dutch bench against Belgium. The Netherlands drew their opening game 0-0, dominating throughout but seldom threatening to score.

They sorely needed Bergkamp's creativity in attack and he did appear for the final 25 minutes. Now Bergkamp and Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, are both confident he can manage at least an hour in the match with South Korea tomorrow.

IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harling's daily quest to see a World Cup match: Day Nine.

A bargain at last. The approaches to the Stade Municipal in Toulouse yesterday were in stark contrast to last Sunday's seething congregation of ticketless Japanese and Argentinian fans. For reasons best known to themselves a group of Mormon missionaries from Utah had bought a batch of 350 franc tickets for 100 francs each earlier in the day. They were outside the stadium selling them for the same price. After the last few days I reckoned I deserved one of them on my birthday.

"I feel really good. I'm going to start the match, although I don't know yet whether I'll be able to finish it," said Bergkamp.

As for Denilson it was never going to be easy to get a starting place against Ronaldo and Bebeto. Only Brazil could keep a player with the pace and skill of Denilson as their ace on the bench, bringing him on for a total of 22 minutes in two games so far.

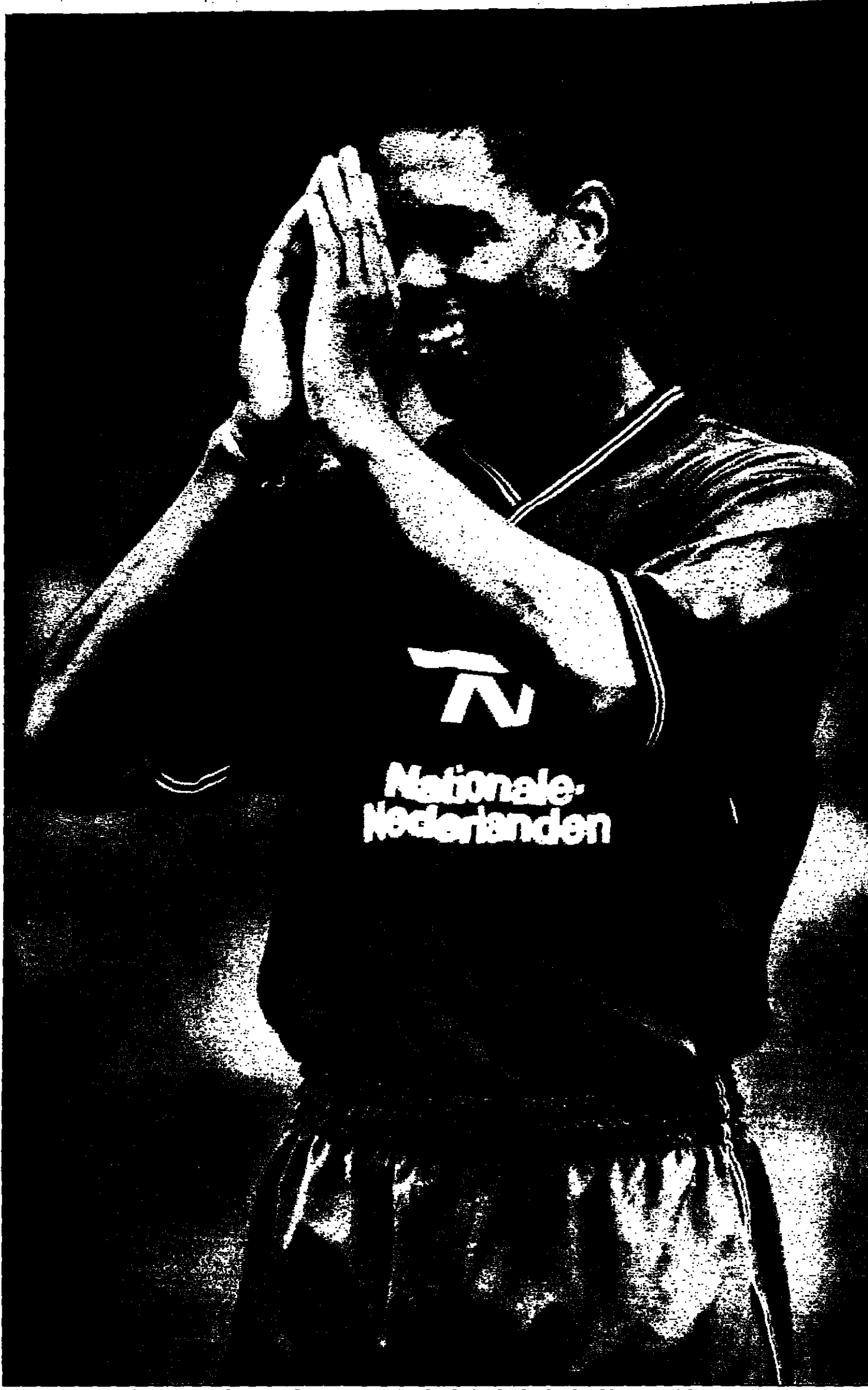
Italy's Del Piero was also excluded by injury and his World Cup place was in some doubt at one point. He, too, is coming back. The Juventus attacker had suffered a groin strain before the World Cup and did not play as the Azzurri drew 2-2 with Chile in their opening game. He was on the bench against Cameroon on Wednesday and played the last half hour, replacing Roberto Baggio. "It was good to play 30 minutes. I hope I will be back up to 90 minutes soon," he said.

That leaves Beckham a worried man. The England midfielder played in every one of the World Cup qualifying games and was considered a certainty to start against Tunisia in Marseille on Monday. Instead, he was dropped in favour of Darren Anderton and Beckham did not have injury to blame for his absence.

"I know I've just got to work extra hard on the training ground and win back my place," the Manchester United midfielder said on Wednesday. "Maybe I was tired in a few games towards the end of the season but I did not expect this."

Milan's Savicevic, the key man in Yugoslavia's qualifying campaign, has been absent with a knee injury and there are signs that the team are losing patience with him. "Dejan Savicevic must declare himself if he wants to play against Germany—we cannot allow everything to hang in the air until Sunday because by then it will be too late," Yugoslavia's assistant coach, Vujadin Boskov, said this week. "His injury is completely healed and I think the problem is somewhere in his head."

Such mental turbulence is not confined to Savicevic, however. His club team-mate Patrick Kluivert, of the Netherlands, has been suspended for two matches after being sent off against Belgium.



Patrick Kluivert offers a prayer for a speedy return to action for the Netherlands after his two-match suspension. Reuters

Hierro hopes to make amends

THE PRESSING need to achieve a victory over Paraguay in St Etienne today after an opening 3-2 reverse against Nigeria is being felt acutely by Spain's beleaguered players.

"We all really want to make up for what happened, to go out and play another game to demonstrate that we really are a good team, that what happened the other day was just an accident, bad luck," said Fernando Hierro, one of the squad's most influential players.

As well as trying to eliminate the defensive blunders that handed victory to Nigeria, the Spanish coach, Javier Clemente, is planning to make changes to the attack. One possibility is to bring in Real Madrid's robust young striker Francisco Morientes, who has scored four goals in his two appearances for the national side.

Guillermo Amor could be drafted in to link with Hierro and add punch to the centre of Spain's midfield but the veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta seems certain to start despite having made a mistake which led to Nigeria's second goal.

The South Americans are equally concerned about their continued inability to score. In the goalless Group D draw against Bulgaria, their most dangerous moment came from a free-kick by their adventurous, goalscoring goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert.

"Spain absolutely have to win this game. For us, with the point we have, we are going to take advantage of that. If I get a chance to score against Spain, I'll take it," Chilavert said.

Paraguay scored only 21 goals in 16 qualifying matches. Many of these were scored by defenders and one of the most crucial, a free-kick in Argentina, by Chilavert.

Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, the coach, could replace the striker Jose Cardozo with Cesar Ramirez, the 21-year-old Sporting Lisbon forward. Other possibilities are the veteran Aristides Rojas or the temperamental Hugo Brizuela.

Nigeria, meanwhile, are refusing to countenance defeat in Group D's other match today, against Bulgaria in Paris. Victory at the Parc des Princes would take the Olympic champions through to the second round for the second successive finals. However, unlike Spain and Paraguay, who have not met at international level, Nigeria and Bulgaria staged a memorable match at the last World Cup. Meeting at the group stage at USA 94, Nigeria emerged 3-0 winners.

Nigeria have extra incentive today, with the authorities in Lagos promising match bonuses of \$15,000 (£9,300) per man for a win.

Even Ravanelli has problems finding a bed

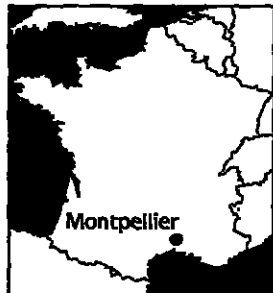
10.45 pm: IMAGINE THE three tenors, then multiply by an extremely large number. Now add green, white and blue stripes to their faces. Fortunately, the song they are all singing is simple enough even for me to join in: "Itai-Itai, Itai-Itai".

I have spent the first half in the Bistrot Romana, the second in the Marco Polo Pizzeria. The third half gets underway on the Place de la Comedie where a giant screen has been showing the Italy-Cameroon game. Stoic Cameroonians depart. For a night, Montpellier belongs to Italy. Small but enthusiastic bands (mainly drums and hooters) are striking up all over town.

Midnight: *ils sont fous ces Romains*, as Asterix and Obelix say. Several men in legionnaire costumes are gyrating on the stage in front of the town hall. General flag-waving and chanting continues. In



ANDY MARTIN AT LARGE IN FRANCE



a harmonious spirit of globalisation, dozens of Danes and a lone Scot have joined in. A few Italians lie unconscious in doorways. A pair of identical twins, Bruno and Stefano, adopt me as a sort of mascot and persist in calling me Ravanelli, despite my poor Italian. "Hey! Fabrizio,

why weren't you playing?" I swear I have toasted Italy around a hundred times when I think about calling it a night.

"You must have a girlfriend waiting for you," they say, goosing me. "Is she beautiful?" I explain to them I'm just looking for a bed for the

night. But they refuse to believe me. "Can we see your girlfriend, please?"

1.00 am: Finding a bed in Montpellier is not as easy as it sounds. All the hotels have "complet" signs up, but a couple had virtually guaranteed they would have places freeing up

after midnight as guests failed to make it back for the night. In the event, they stay full. Oh, oh. I could always sleep in the back of my hire car. It's a good idea, but I don't have a hire car. And it is too late to hire one.

1.30 am: I drop into Pixel, a kind of Internet cafe, but without the cafe. I log on and check out the WC98 site and discover that Asprilla has been sent home for criticising the Colombian coach. Oh well, at least he has a bed. I play a game called "Total Annihilation" and lose.

2.30 am: Hanging out in the station themselves, the CRS police refuse to let me hang out in the station. There is a "terrorist threat", apparently. I am relaxed about this, however, having already figured out Plan B.

2.35 am: Merde! Plan B goes up in smoke. They have locked the park opposite the station. I was counting

on that park as a last resort. Back in the main square the Danes and the Scot have dropped out, but the Italians are still raging, literally playing with fire as they "borrow" some flaming juggling clubs from a juggler. Bruno and Stefano are dancing in one of the fountains.

3.00 am: I pay 75F to get into the "Rock House" (or "Rock Store"? It's all a blur). No, I am not planning to dance, just desperate for a place to collapse. Big mistake. The joint isn't just jumping, it is heaving. The floorboards are throbbing beneath my feet. So much so that I start to feel sea-sick. I finally find a spot to sit down, but merry-makers keep treading on my feet.

4 am: Head to the Esplanade to find a quiet bench to kip on in the fresh air. I don't care if I never hear rap again. But the city council has cunningly installed a bar across

the middle of the benches to stop you lying down. So I sit there stolidly. In France this is not sleeping rough, it's sleeping à la belle étoile. Wish someone hadn't nicked my denim jacket back in Saint Raphael though. But it's a fine night. I'll be OK.

4.30 am: A well-armed CRS man rudely awakens me. It is not permitted to sleep on the benches. OF, OK, I'm going.

4.45 am: Bruno and Stefano catch me going nowhere and say various things I don't fully understand, but having to do with my non-existent girlfriend. "Hey! Fabrizio, why weren't you playing?" they say for roughly the thousandth time, laughing hysterically and holding one another up as they reel off into the night.

5 am: Dawn. Claiming to be catching the train to Nice, I sneak into the station and flake out in a heap in the corner. Buona notte.



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FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The homecoming

It was the homecoming that no one came to, the party that never was. Louise Woodward returned to Elton yesterday, but hardly anyone in this Cheshire village of 4,000 came out to welcome her. The authorities had not expected this outbreak of apathy and, a full 24 hours earlier, had lined the village's main street with bollards. The police were out in force, both on the street and in black BMWs that cruised around looking for trouble. In the end, however, they only saw a few little old ladies going about their shopping and, of course, journalists. Lots of journalists.

"Call me naive but I thought that a few people would come out," said one reporter as the scramble began to find a "real person" on Elton's wet streets. In the end, there were only a dozen or so "reals" to be found and most came with their very own particular agenda. One wanted to be an au pair. Another was on hand to photograph the satellite vans.

One man whose umbrella trailed yards of yellow ribbon admitted that some might call him a nutter. Phil Ward had already spent 12 months outside the US Embassy in support of Louise Woodward, and yesterday his was the only voice raised to shout encouragement to her as the white Luxury Land Cruiser carrying the family turned into Marsh Road.

There is a certain logic to this. After all, what is the right way to welcome home a convicted child killer who also happens to be a sweet-faced local girl? We shouldn't be surprised that it was a bit strange. After all, the Louise Woodward story has been peculiar from the beginning and it makes sense that it should be peculiar as this chapter ends.

As always in this case, there were more questions than answers. The answers were given early yesterday morning by Louise in her newly Americanised accent at the Manchester airport press conference. Yes, she would give a proper interview when she got over her jet lag. No, she would not accept any payment for it. Yes, she still maintained her innocence.

The media were told not to ask questions about other things. Especially about the trust fund. If they persisted asking such questions then Louise would simply leave the press conference. The press wants to keep in with the Woodwards (after all, the story isn't over yet) and agreed.

But difficult questions remain, even if they are unspoken. What is going to happen to the trust fund that had raised some £250,000 from all over the world? Did her mother Sue forge an invoice to that trust fund worth some £9,000? Why had Jean Jones, a founder of the support group, suddenly turned on Sue last week, accusing her of being obsessed with money? Did one of Louise's former lawyers really say that she now thought Louise was guilty of killing baby Matthew? And has Sue Woodward agreed to sell her story to a very high bidder already?

The village of Elton pretends to not be interested in such things - on the record. Over the past 16 months they have become adept at this on



Louise Woodward may be reunited with her family, but neighbours in her home village of Elton are deeply divided in their feelings about the whole affair

Gavin Fogg/NTV

the record/off the record stuff. Yesterday, for instance, there was no shortage of on-the-record theories about why no one came to welcome Louise home. Christine Gray, a support group member, explained that the village was thrilled. After all, she said, it was what they had been fighting for for such a long time. It's just that some things are better done in one's own front room. Behind closed doors. "The lack of support here means that everybody respects the girl and her family," she said. "In fact I think it shows a very deep respect."

Others claim that the welcome was subdued because no one wanted to be seen celebrating as they had last year when champagne corks flew in the Rigger pub the night Louise's sentence was reduced from 15 years to 297 days.

"I maintain to this day that it was the media that did that. They gave us the champagne," insists support group member Sandra McCabe. Anyone in the village will tell you the same thing. In fact it is one of two things that almost everyone around here agrees on. The first is that

Louise Woodward is innocent, and the second is that the media are a ruthless lot. "I'll be glad when it all ends and we can get back to normal," said one villager yesterday.

Whatever normal is. It is hard for villagers to remember what it was like before Louise became their very own *cause célèbre*. When pushed, they can just about recall that the Woodwards were once just another one of those families who

The person whom the village did know, however, was Jean Jones. It was Jean who mobilised that first support for the Woodwards. A public meeting was called. The Rigger pub offered to hold a Bingo night. A group of women, who became known as the Mothers of Elton, became the support system for the Woodwards. Then everything started to snowball. Sue and Gary often found themselves divided by an

may not be fair but then, village gossip rarely is. Sue Woodward is not the easiest person to get along with, they say, and the support group has had its moments. All of this is whispered. On the record, everything has been absolutely wonderful, thank you very much.

The deepest split in Elton is over the money (about £49,000 is left, though fund-raising continues) and how it is used. The saga

Louise asking if her visitors could use the side door (and not the main office door). It's the kind of petty thing that you could talk about for hours in a village pub on a slow day. On 27 March, Louise moved out.

All of this came to light after Ms Whitfield Sharp was arrested for drunk driving in Boston on 22 May. Police say she could not recite the alphabet beyond the letter N and was unable to walk straight. They also say she told them that she now believed Louise was guilty. Ms Whitfield Sharp denies this and has her own set of accusations that she was sexually harassed (which the policeman, in turn, also denies).

She was fired from the defence team, but that was not the end of it. The Whitfield Sharps then claimed that Sue Woodward had forged an invoice for about £9,000 for charges that they had never made. The trust fund wholeheartedly backed Sue Woodward but did not directly address the question of whether the invoice was a fake. Then Jean Jones raised further doubts in an interview about Sue: "The money became

God. And I find it so sad and yet so sickening that something so good should turn into something like this. I believe the fund should be stopped. God bless all the people that helped and worked so hard."

When you ask the Mothers of Elton about this, they say that Jean is being vindictive. Others say that she had become friends with Elaine Whitfield Sharp when she went to Boston. And, when it comes to Ms Whitfield Sharp, the Mothers of Elton are vitriolic. "I find it incredible that Sue's integrity is being questioned by this woman," said Sandra McCabe. "This is a woman who got drunk and drove and then said that a cop had propositioned her!" But this is also a woman who was once a good friend to Louise Woodward, as was Jean Jones.

Now the talk is all about returning to normal, both for Elton and for Louise. But Louise Woodward will never again be a girl from a little village called Elton that nobody has ever heard of. Louise is infamous and so is Elton. Normal is not an option. The homecoming proved that.

BY ANN TRENEMAN

didn't mix much with the rest of the village. Gary had helped to build their large detached house and some others in the road, too. He and his wife and their two girls Louise and Vicky lived quietly. So much so that the village did not really react at first when Louise Woodward was arrested in Boston for killing a baby in her care. "This terrible thing had happened and people were going round saying: 'Who are these people?' They didn't know them," said one villager.

ocean as one of them always wanted to be on hand for Louise. Stresses and strains mounted. Money started to pour in and, in January, the money was placed in a trust fund.

The money is now way out of the Bingo night league and Louise and her family have also become mini-celebrities of a kind. The village is full of comments on Sue's new clothes and appearances in general. Why, for instance, did the Woodwards not move to sell their house at the beginning? Such questions

of Louise Woodward has had its twists and turns but it is only in the past month that things have become really bizarre, with the introduction of the relatively unknown figure of Elaine Whitfield Sharp. She is one of Louise's lawyers and has been described as a mother figure. Certainly she was a friend who let Louise and her family live with her for months.

Their falling-out came in March. Evidently the final straw came when Ms Whitfield Sharp left a note for

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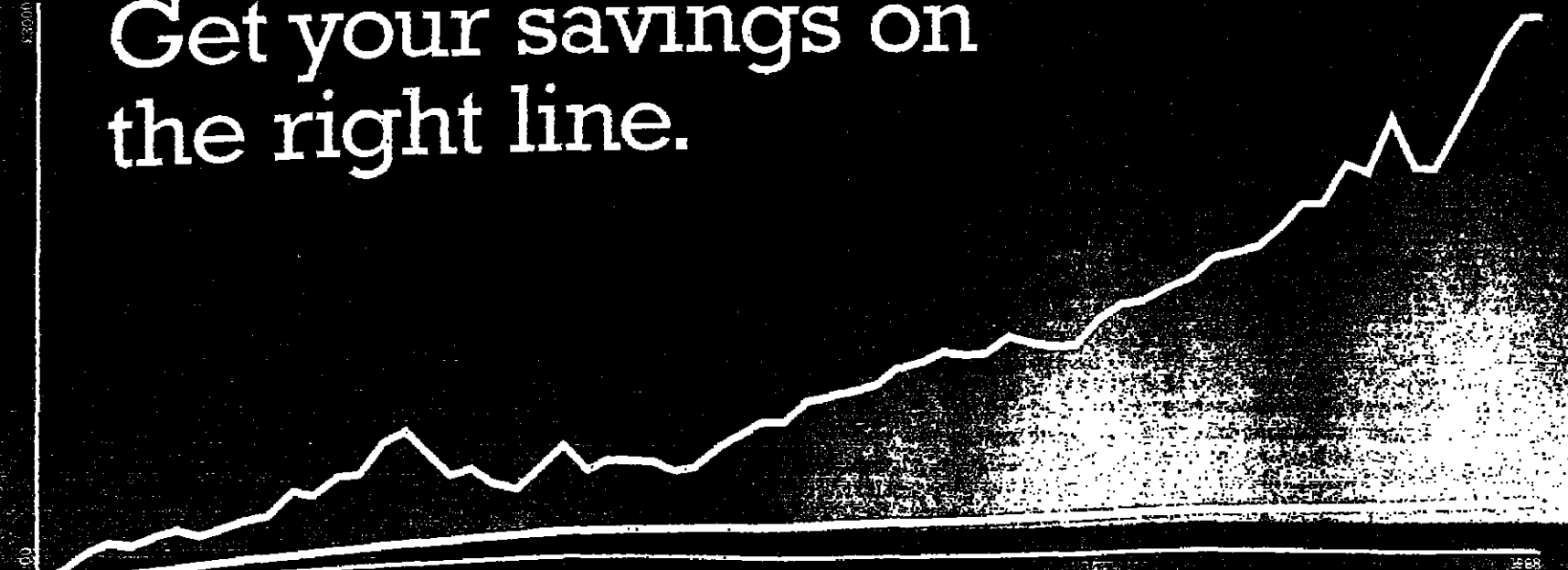
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Take a bow, Tony Slattery

THE WORLD of show business is a world of mystery, isn't it? At least, it would seem to be, judging from the many letters I get asking questions like "Who is this Noel Coward and has he written any new songs recently?" and "Did you ever come across a primitive Amazonian tribe that was fighting to preserve Sting?"

Taxing stuff indeed. So today I have hired the services of John "Tappy Toes" Prendergast, Professor of Show Business at Milton Keynes University, to answer all your queries on the wonderful world of showbiz. Take it away, Tappy!

Dear Professor "Tappy Toes": Prendergast, there was a time when Tony Slattery was known throughout the world of quiz shows etc for his ubiquitousness. Then

sonalities like Michael Parkinson and Clive Anderson appear from behind a curtain at the start of the show and walk to their chair. What a waste of time! Why can't they be seated for the start? I mean, Trevor Macdonald doesn't walk on for the news, does he? He gets straight on with it!

Prof Prendergast writes: It's to reassure the TV audience at home that this really is the start of the show and they have missed nothing.

Oh, but they have. They've missed the warm-up act, and the chat with the star, and the pep talk from the producer, and the bit where the man says to the audience, "Now, don't forget you're going to be seen on telly, so I hope nobody's sitting next to anyone they shouldn't be seen out with!"

Dr Prendergast writes: Yes, very clever. Next question please!

I read the other day that the Rolling Stones have decided to leave Britain out of their next world tour for tax reasons. Well, I went to the last local Stones concert, and it occurred to me then that the Stones didn't really need to be there at all. We saw the Stones big and clear on a video screen, we heard their music loud and clear through the speakers, but all we actually saw of The Stones was five dots in the distance who could have been anyone. Why couldn't it have been five stand-ins?

Dr Prendergast writes: It was. The Stones haven't appeared live in this country for 15 years.

Why oh why is all dancing today so formless and improvised, so unlike the ballroom dancing of yesteryear?

Professor "Tappy Toes" Prendergast writes: Oh, but you're wrong! If you examine the history of dancing you'll find that whenever there's a period of uncontrolled and apparently wild dancing, there is always a counter-movement towards extreme discipline. So we have hip-hop and house dancing, but we ALSO have the popularity of very formal things like line dancing, Appalachian clog dancing, the tango and so on. It's yin and yang in dance.

That sounds like the glib, superficial argument you get on TV chat shows or radio arts programmes.

Professor Prendergast writes: And so it is! People like Benny Green, Robert Cushman, Gerald Kaufman and Mark Steyn have cornered the market as instant experts in Broadway musicals, but nobody has yet become an instant expert on showbiz dancing. I aim to be that guru! TV stardom here I come!

Most of us need to succeed at something and if the education system fails to deliver success, then some will seek to "win" in other fields. These violent young men dominate others; they are violent, but they are also brave, by their own lights, and good at defending the "honour" of their country.

If they could not succeed at this self-chosen crusade they would succeed at nothing whatsoever - no exam passes, no careers, not even approbation from society for being useless but non-violent. Certainly no large salaries and only the Lottery as hope of a fortune. What would you do if you were an "unsuccessful" young man in our selfish society?

HELEN MACLENNAN
Teddington, Middlesex

Sir: When I was a young man I had access to fields to play cricket and football on, and was taught how to play rugby by a geology master who taught us after school.

Unfortunately the teaching profession fell into Margaret Thatcher's trap and decided not to be involved in activities after school. Thus hundreds of thousands of children were denied an outlet for their feelings of aggression in organised sport. Going on a Saturday to watch a football match and witnessing the opposition is the way millions of people get this violence off their chests.

Unfortunately the way sport is going there will be more and more people watching rich sportsmen and fewer playing sport. Sporting crowds are getting more jingoistic as they contain fewer sportsmen.

Although we are leading the field in hooliganism, the other nations are catching up, as evidenced by the domestic football problems in Argentina and the Netherlands this season, and, as on the football pitch, they will overtake us.

MIKE TURNER
Stockton-on-Tees

Sir: Three cheers for Suzanne Moore's biting anti-hooligan article ("Forever In-ger-land", 16 June). A



Students of the Royal College of Art backstage moments before their fashion and textile graduation show yesterday

David Rose

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Football thugs

Sir: So, the Prime Minister thinks that those guilty of rioting in Marseille should lose their jobs ("Blair urges firms to sack hooligans" 16 June).

The proper course of action to take against someone suspected of a criminal act is to pursue the matter in the criminal court. It is the responsibility of the court to impose punishment upon conviction. Once such punishment has occurred the conviction is recorded and the matter should be seen to be over.

However much one disapproves of the conduct of the Marseille mobs, the adoption of kangaroo court measures adding an extra unsanctioned punishment simply subverts the criminal law process.

M BOLTON
New Basford, Nottingham

Sir: If you want to understand the violent behaviour of young men attending the World Cup in France, read Oliver James's article "How to Make Schoolchildren Feel Inadequate" (16 June).

Most of us need to succeed at something and if the education system fails to deliver success, then some will seek to "win" in other fields. These violent young men dominate others; they are violent, but they are also brave, by their own lights, and good at defending the "honour" of their country.

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MIKE TURNER
Stockton-on-Tees

Sir: Three cheers for Suzanne Moore's biting anti-hooligan article ("Forever In-ger-land", 16 June). A

fourth cheer for you, for giving it front-page prominence in the Tuesday Review. And yet a fifth, for braving the fury of your soccer-loving readers and advocating the true, radical answer - withdrawal from the World Cup.

I would be even more radical and ban all confrontational sport, from boxing to the frontbench battles in Parliament. The notion that such sport is a beneficial sublimation of our innate warlike urges is itself an implicit condoning of those urges.

If we need to confront something, why cannot we take it out on the natural world in individual and team sports, from walking to white-water canoeing?

ALAN WALKDEN
Tideswell, Derbyshire

Sir: Your editorial comment (16 June) that we should withdraw from the World Cup showed remarkable lack of foresight. Of course, when the word gets around that we have pulled out, all those morons bent on destruction will pack up their knuckle-dusters and tottle off back to Tunbridge Wells. They will not go off the deep end and wreck everything in sight, no of course not!

If you are seriously worried about it all, why not make a real stand, and withdraw all your journalists from the World Cup, stop reporting on football altogether, and show the country you mean business. Or would lack of business suddenly take priority?

PERRY BARTLETT
London SE20

Sir: Those currently engaged in revising some of the services for use in the Church of England might consider adding a new petition to the Litany: From football frenzy, from Millennium madness, from Dianolatriy and all other forms of national hysteria, Good Lord, deliver us.

CANON JOHN GRIMWADE
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Voting for a party

Sir: The political parties are discussing whom they wish to field in the European elections of 1999.

For the first time, party affiliations will outweigh voter choices. Up to now the winners in parliamentary or local government elections have always owed their position directly to the popular vote. In 1999, this will no longer be true. Voters will not be allowed to vote for individual candidates, but instead will be offered a choice between political parties. The parties will nominate lists of candidates, and will choose those members of the lists who are deemed to be "elected".

The days when an elected member owed a responsibility to all the electors will have finished. In future, queries and complaints will be addressed to regional political offices, which will decide which member of their party in Parliament, if any, should respond. In the past, the fact that Members of Parliament owed their position to the electorate in their constituency meant that they were responsive to democratic pressures. In future, members will owe their position to the party

officials who appointed them, and their constituency role will shrink to a matter of public relations.

The different parties will choose different methods of selecting their lists and of putting the lists in order to decide which of their candidates will be deemed to have won once the votes are counted. Some parties are insisting on a one-member one-vote ballot, all the way through to the numbering of the final lists. The least democratic party will be the Labour Party, which only involves its membership at the nomination stage, and which keeps a leadership monopoly over the determination of the final list, and the vital matter of the order of the names on that list. Only the top names stand any chance of being sent to Parliament.

The new system is wrong not because it is proportional, but because it gives power to the party machines which they should not have, and takes away powers from the voters which they should have. It would be perfectly possible to evolve proportional systems of election in which the link between voters and their representatives remained at least as strong as it has been up to now.

KEN COATES MEP
(Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield, Independent Labour)
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

PR and the unions

Sir: Ken Jackson apparently feels that electoral reform is part of a plot to break Labour's links with the unions (Parliament & Politics, 15 June).

This is one of the stranger conspiracy theories currently available and demeans an important debate that is central to the interests of trade unionists.

When the Labour Party was established almost a century ago, electoral reform was a fundamental objective. The Labour Party and the TUC supported the electoral reforms that were twice carried in the Commons, but stymied in the Lords (in 1918 and 1930).

Recently trade unionists were active participants in the Plant Commission, which informed and influenced our debate in the labour movement. Ken Jackson's members supported the proportional system for electing the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly.

They recognise that trade unions, above all other bodies in our society, have more to gain and less to lose from electoral reform. Elective dictatorship has twice tried to destroy them in the past 60 years. Proportional representation throughout the rest of Europe has been a factor in the advancement of free trade unionism, protecting an institution that is supported by the majority of the population from the attacks of an unrepresentative minority.

Of course those seeking to defend the status quo will vigorously engage in the historic debate that will follow publication of the Jenkins Commission report. The debate should, however, be about our constitution for the next hundred years, not the triviality of contemporary political gossip.

ALAN JOHNSON MP
(Hull W and Hessle, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: As a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union I had just finished completing my ballot form for elections to the executive council, using the single transferable vote in accordance with the union rule book, when I was astonished to read the report of your labour editor stating that our leader is to campaign against proportional representation because it is an attempt to "split apart the Labour family".

Until now it had seemed that the Conservatives' convoluted contention that first-past-the-post is really a "proportional" system, took the prize for audacious hypocrisy in the battle to preserve the status quo. It is most encouraging that the opponents of reform are being driven to such absurdities.

A D HOADLEY
Eastbourne, East Sussex

Lawrence apology

Sir: Ian Johnston ("Finally, police apologise to the Lawrence family", 18 June) has a strange way of saying sorry.

Firstly, he said that he "cannot and does not seek to justify" the way the case has been handled by the Metropolitan Police. He then did exactly this, saying, "we have tried ... to show imagination and determination to prosecute Stephen's killers".

Secondly, he quite rightly described what has happened to the Lawrence family as a "tragedy". He then completely devalues the word by saying that it has also been a "tragedy" for the Metropolitan police. Wrong. It has been a public relations disaster for the police.

Thirdly, why has it taken so long for this "apology" to come? The Metropolitan Police must have thought that the furore would eventually die down and that they would get away with it.

J HEFORTH
Ipswich

Not so, Mr Trelford

Sir: As a mere editor, one enters a debate between professors of journalism at one's peril, but Donald Trelford ("Where is the Observer's guardian angel?" 16 June) really cannot be allowed to get away with it.

In his reply to Peter Cole's earlier article on the Observer, Mr Trelford says the circulation of that newspaper never fell below 550,000 while he was editor. How come then, that when I succeeded him as editor, we promptly got the news that sales had just dropped below 500,000 and were forecast to hit 450,000 by the end of the year?

Mr Trelford then refers to the Observer being named Newspaper of the Year in 1993 as if it was one of his achievements. In fact, the judges gave the paper the 1993 award precisely because of the improvements that followed Mr Trelford's departure. His sleight of the keyboard would beggar belief if

it wasn't par for the course in the way the Observer's history has been rewritten by those who led it to the brink of being absorbed by the Independent on Sunday.

Part of this exercise involves denigrating those in charge of the Guardian at the time, and Mr Trelford duly quotes Alan Watkins muttering: "Who do they think they are?" Goodness knows, given how they behaved towards me subsequently, I hold no brief for Hugo Young or Peter Preston. But may I offer an answer to Mr Watkins' rhetorical question: "they thought they were the people who had saved the oldest Sunday paper from extinction - and quite rightly so since the Observer would not have appeared as an independent title for the past five years if the Guardian group had not bought it."

As for Mr Watkins, he speedily voted with his wallet: demanding a 30 per cent pay increase at a time when colleagues of his were losing their jobs. Otherwise, he said, he would cross to a rival paper. I refused his demand. So Mr Watkins left, and immediately dismissed me and my colleagues as peasants who did not understand the magic of the Observer in the era of Lorrain Owenship. I can only offer thanks for such ignorance which enabled us to reverse the remorseless editorial decline under the Trelford all stars and to get sales back above 500,000 - without eating the rat sandwiches of the phoney Pharaoh special issue and African grovels.

JONATHAN FENBY
Editor
South China Morning Post
Hong Kong

IN BRIEF

Sir: The former Foreign Office minister David Davis MP is quoted as defining a diplomat as "The Sketch", 17 June) as "An honest man paid to go abroad to lie for his country". I suspect that he was drawing heavily on Sir Henry Wotton (1568-1639), an ambassador for James I, who wrote in a friend's album "An Ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country".

Some claim Wotton meant this as a double entendre, having in mind that touching the leg of a prospective royal bride, thereby symbolically consummating the marriage or, perhaps less symbolically, otherwise lying with ladies on official business, were sometimes ambassadorial duties.

I can assure you from personal experience that in our own less colourful times both meanings have long since ceased to be part of a diplomat's job description.

MERRICK BAKER-BATES
Creston, Northamptonshire

Sir: How ironic to describe Ann Widdecombe as an "enemy of all things alternative" ("You ask the Questions", 17 June). Is there any stance in today's moral maze that is more "alternative" than the stance of one who is unashamedly Christian?

JIM MALLIA
Tolind, Isle of Wight

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columns, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) remain on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now appear on Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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Tipping the scales in favour of the weakest in the workforce

THE ARGUMENT in the Government about the national minimum wage was bound to be reported in personal terms. It does, however, matter to the prospects for Tony Blair's administration that he and Gordon Brown have fallen out with Margaret Beckett. It also matters that there are strong currents of ideology, passion and history running through the Labour Party and the trade unions in favour of the minimum wage. But what matters above all is getting the policy right.

The first point to establish is that a minimum wage is right in principle. It is important, though, to be clear about precisely which principle this is. A minimum wage is not a human right, for all the emotive rhetoric of Rodney Bickerstaffe, the Unison leader. It is one instrument among many of social justice.

If it is set too high, especially for younger workers, it will put people out of work, and there is no social justice in that. But, if it is set at the right level and applied to the right groups of people, it has a number of benefits.

It prevents, as Winston Churchill famously argued, employers competing against each other by undercutting each other's wages, and forces them to focus on the genuine competitive gains from higher productivity. By reducing staff turnover, it makes those productivity gains more likely. It reinforces the Government's attempts to ensure that work pays, by increasing the incentive to get a job rather than claim benefit. And it has the effect of increasing the spending power of the poorest, which can boost local economies in the most deprived areas.

Of course, any free-market zealot can point out that, if employers have to pay more for something (that is, labour), they will buy less of it, causing unemployment. But that is too simplistic, assuming that there is something approaching a perfectly free market in labour. There is not. The market is distorted by all manner of cultural attitudes, legal restrictions and unequal information. A minor rebalancing of market forces in favour of the weakest employees is hardly going to blunt the competitive edge of modern capitalism.

The all-important question, then, is a technical one, concerning the level and coverage of the minimum wage. The level cannot be determined by an arbitrary formula - the unions' adherence to half of median male earnings, currently worth £4.60 an hour, is theology rather than economics: theology dressed up in statistical mumbo-jumbo. The level has to be an empirical



judgement based on the evidence of the likely impact on jobs.

There may have been a case for erring on the side of caution by knocking 10p off the Low Pay Commission's recommendation of £3.60 an hour (the US minimum wage, for example, is equivalent to £3.10 an hour at current exchange rates). But the important debate was the one which did in fact split the Government: how to deal with younger workers.

Mr Blair and Mr Brown have been accused by the TUC of watering down the Commission's proposals in order to score anti-union propaganda points at Mrs Beckett's expense. On the contrary, they seem genuinely concerned with getting the policy right.

All the evidence is that setting an adult minimum

wage for young people destroys jobs - the OECD published an emphatic study last month. There is no need for a separate minimum wage for young people, and it would be simpler just to have one, adult rate. Young people up to the age of 21 - or preferably 24, at least until the impact can be assessed - should simply be exempt. That might have been a bridge too far for the Labour Party and the unions, in which case the Prime Minister and the Chancellor should be praised for doing what they can to soften the Low Pay Commission's plan.

If it turns out, after next April, that they were too cautious, that can be corrected later. In the meantime, there is no excuse for taking risks with young people's job prospects.

Don't give in to tabloid thugs

DECIDING GOVERNMENT policy by tabloid headline was never a good idea, and the Prime Minister's call for employers to sack football hooligans is one of the worst examples. It got him the headline his press secretary wanted: "Blair Sack Soccer Thugs." But it was a foolish response to the difficult problem of what to do about the sickness which afflicts one of the very few expressions of Englishness - as distinct from the national identity of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Employment lawyers immediately pointed out that it was "questionable" whether employers generally would be able to sack someone convicted of a football-related offence abroad. In other words, it would be illegal, and quite right too. If someone has been convicted and punished for a crime it is a basic principle of the law that they cannot be penalised twice for the same offence. One of our disowned ambassadors in Marseilles is an RAF military police officer: clearly there is a special obligation on those charged in their jobs with upholding the law. Equally, if a member of the diplomatic service was caught hurling a beer bottle at a Romanian they should be sacked summarily. But some of the hooligans locked up by the French work for the Post Office. Tony Blair said he hoped "strong action" would be taken against convicted football hooligans who are employed by the public services. But that cannot be justified. Nor does it make any sense in the light of the Government's approach to social exclusion. Criminals need jobs if there is to be any hope of rehabilitating them as responsible members of society.

The behaviour of English hooligans in France has been sickening, embarrassing and a stain on England's national pride. But it demands a considered response, rather than a cheap, knee-jerk appeal to the vindictive prejudices of tabloid readers.

Clowning around

THE MORE we learn about what is going to be in the Millennium Dome, the less plausible the whole project seems. Ladies and gentlemen: Peter Mandelson's latest, modern, millennial concept is (pause for drum roll) a circus. Acrobats and trapeze artists in the biggest of big tops. "The space is bigger than most people have ever been in..." To fill it requires a spectacle that uses the language of the Notting Hill carnival and the stagecraft of rock concerts," says the producer. That is the big idea for the 21st century, then. A circus. Only bigger. It is with a terrible sense of foreboding that we predict the Dome will be a tremendous success.

Ministers brassed off in the battle for the future of new Labour

GOVERNMENT HAS its great games, like EMU or the slow waltz which could finally reunite the centre left around a seismic change in the electoral system. And it has its gnawing, chronic, problems which preoccupy the waking hours of ministers and fill the papers which stream endlessly between the departments.

Forget the big picture for the moment and consider two decisions, one announced yesterday and one coming next week, which demonstrate what a permanent struggle is involved in governing as New Labour. Each will severely test the loyalty of traditional party supporters. Each involves one of the least glamorous of ministries, the Department of Trade and Industry presided over by Margaret Beckett. And each, curiously, tells us much about the character of the Blair administration.

The dilution of the Low Pay Commission's recommendations on youth pay follow a good old-fashioned Cabinet row between Mrs Beckett, who wanted to implement the £3.30 youth rate proposed by the commission in full, and Gordon Brown, who didn't. At one heated meeting chaired by the Prime Minister earlier this month, Mrs Beckett told the Chancellor that she would not be prepared to go to the House of Commons and do what she did yesterday on the basis of the economic arguments furnished by the Treasury.

But her allies made what may prove to have been a fatal mistake by leaking accounts of the meeting which suggested that she had won the argument. And since Chancellors cannot be publicly seen to be defeated this

served to strengthen Gordon Brown's case.

As it happened, both cases had merits. The commission report had the broad support of the CBI. Was the Government going to be less hard on the employers than even the CBI wanted? If the Government was prepared to unscramble the youth pay proposals, then that relieved its critics, like the TUC, of any corresponding obligation to support the planned adult rate of £3.60 an hour.

But the Brown case was also strong, incidentally belying the increasingly fashionable picture of the Chancellor as the true socialist stealthily at permanent odds with the neo-conservative Prime Minister. It was better to ensure that young people got work, even low paid work, than no work at all. Research showed that well over twice as high a proportion of young people would be affected by the youth rate as adults by the adult rate, and the likely adverse impact on youth jobs, and the probable boost to inflation, was correspondingly higher if the youth rate was implemented in full immediately. That was paramount, since the eradication of youth unemployment was a central Government objective. In this, Brown's admirable, driving obsession with work as the means to individual fulfilment, he was backed by Blair.

But if that was difficult, the coming announcement about the coal crisis may be even more so. Coal, shrunken as it is, still resonates with Labour as no other industry. If you wept solidly through *Brassed Off*, the brilliant, elegiac evocation of the rage and helplessness left behind by a pit

DONALD MACINTYRE

We will govern as new Labour, Tony Blair said. But whether on pay or coal it doesn't come easy

closure, you are probably somewhere on the left side of the political fault-line. It is that much of a defining issue.

Which makes the question of what to do about the imminent threat to mining jobs even more agonising than it already is. The stay of execution on the contracts which RJ Budge, the biggest UK mining company, has with the electricity generating industry ends on June 30. The contracts were partly prolonged by calling a moratorium on the construction of gas-fired power stations, so removing a potential competitor to the electricity generators, and making them in the process more willing to buy British coal at a price above the strictly economic. But Budge, a fairly ruthless operator, currently making private sector profits on the preferential contractual terms enjoyed by the coal in-

dustry when it was in the public sector, has bluntly warned that unless he goes on having help from the Government, up to 5,000 jobs may go.

Enter Geoffrey Robinson, a businessman-minister Mr First, with a plan to extend this breathing space for another three to five years. The Paymaster-General's suggestion was, first, that the three generation companies should be forced to sell off some of their coal-fired power stations (something that should have happened years ago, the previous Government having failed to create anything like enough competition in the generating industry, thus keeping electricity prices high and helping to stimulate the dash for gas). And secondly that the moratorium on gas-fired power stations should continue for three to five years.

At this point, Blair became seriously and audibly alarmed. First, there was a real threat of possibly successful legal action by several hard-nosed, American-owned gas companies. Also this kind of help for coal at the expense of gas had the potential to conflict with more than one essential Government objective. One, as it happens, was the need to conform with international environmental standards on CO2 emissions.

There were worries in Whitehall about the corresponding threat to gas construction jobs. Officials in the Welsh Office, who have seen a big growth in gas power to replace the once great South Wales mining industry, questioned sharply whether it was sane to artificially preserve mining jobs in an industry which was notorious for accidents and disease.

Finally the Energy Select Committee had heard persuasive evidence that Britain would, even in the long run, not be anything like as dependent on foreign gas as the advocates of coal subsidies claim. But, above all, his worry was the consequences - not least for inward investment - of failing to keep his promise to minimise intervention in the market.

Blair has ordered a much more aggressive market-oriented rethink of the Robinson plan. There will be a package which offers some solace for the coal industry, but few absolute guarantees. Details have not been finalised, but it is likely to include further competition in generation, careful licensing of gas-fired power stations, and a promise to enforce the right to sell electricity to France as France sells it to Britain. But no succumbing to RJ Budge's threats, and no blanket moratorium on gas-fired power stations. It should include more direct help to ravaged coalfield areas. What we wait for in *Brassed Off* is not so much coal itself: it is the communities which it has sustained.

Ministers have not always conformed to type in the protracted negotiations on coal. John Battle, Beckett's energy minister, was originally in favour of taking a tough line. Peter Mandelson, no less, has become something of an advocate of as secure a long term future as possible for coal since his trip down Kellingley colliery. But the outcome will now almost certainly be distinctively Blairite. "We will govern as New Labour," the Prime Minister said on May 2, 1997. But whether on pay or coal, it doesn't come easy.

Linton Weeks, Washington Post (US)
THE BIRTH-control pill transformed the baby-boomers at the beginning of their sexual lives. Viagra comes at the latter stages. But the upshot could be equally powerful. The birth-control pill eliminated one undesirable outcome of extra-marital and premarital sex - pregnancy. The promise of Viagra is the obliteration of the physiological and psychological obstacles to performance. For a society that has operated under the construct that people in their fifties and sixties are

physically in decline, less interested in sex, more preoccupied with jobs and careers than with sexual pleasure, Viagra could redefine an entire stage of life.

Vincent Mak, Hong Kong Standard
THE VIAGRA craze is coming to Hong Kong, with a pill fetching \$200 to \$500 on the black market. "Couples may need to re-coordinate their sex life after the impotent male partners take Viagra," said Dr Desmond Nguyen, senior medical officer of Kwai Chung Hospital, who also runs a Psychosexual Clinic

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the launch of Viagra, the impotence drug

at the Caritas Medical Centre. "Husbands need to increase their exercise tolerance before trying sex again with Viagra, especially if they have not done that for a few years," he said.

With the media's portrayal of the little blue pills as an aphro-

disiac, there is speculation that they will lead to more men hanging out in nightclubs and going to various hot spots in Southeast Asian countries. But will the little blue pills bring about a sexual revolution? We'll have to wait and see.

Maureen Dowd, The New York Times (US)
WOMEN ALREADY think men are led too much by their anatomy. If Pfizer's rivals are smart, they are looking for the Viagra antidote. For each woman who celebrates Viagra, there's another who has nightmares about her 62-year-old husband undergoing a salivary transformation and chasing 21-year-old interns. As men know, women like to think they're special. With Viagra, women will never know for sure whether it's their own allure or just chemically enhanced blood-vessel function.

David Friedman, Salon Magazine (Internet)
ON MARCH 27, the FDA approved Viagra, a little blue pill that, according to its manufacturer, Pfizer Inc, has created a forest of wood in up to 80 per cent of the 4,000 impotent men tested in their clinical trials. The sound of trees rising is beautiful music to stock analysts, no doubt thinking of the 30 million American men who are said to have erectile dysfunction. And as baby-boomers age, that number will soar. Like teeth, penises weren't designed to last 80 years.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am very pleased to be home, back on English soil. I really missed the place."
Louise Woodward, speaking to the press at Manchester Airport

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"What actually fills you with indignation as regards suffering is not suffering in itself but the pointlessness of suffering"
Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher

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PANDORA

RE-SHUFFLE RUMOURS continue to echo down the corridors of Westminster. "It's going to be a Big One," they're saying, as if the Government was planning a re-enactment of the San Francisco earthquake. The second week in July is mentioned often, although Pandora suspects the final week of July is just as likely. Transport Minister Gavin Strang has strapped on his parachute and seems to have one foot already out of the plane. Indeed, his job itself seems destined to leave the Cabinet to make way for a Minister for Women (keeping Harriet Harman at the table) or possibly a Cabinet-ranked Employment Minister (with Ian McCartney replacing Baroness Blackstone?). Meanwhile, as Pandora has previously reported, the future role of Peter Mandelson remains the most controversial question. One insider suggests that he could be appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, replacing David Clark, who has been primarily concerned with information technology issues and the fledgling Freedom of Information Act. In Mandy's grasp, the post would become a "Cabinet Minister for the Cabinet" position. However, the Crown requires a Chancellor of the Duchy to wait upon the Queen with great subservience whenever she happens to visit Lancaster. It's not difficult to imagine how much Mandelson would enjoy this aspect of the job. Is Lancaster ready for its first earthquake?

NED SHERRIN, theatre impresario, after-dinner speaker and die-hard Tory, is going to support for Ken Livingstone for Mayor of London. The producer told Pandora: "I will vote Labour for the first time if Ken Livingstone is allowed to stand by 'Little Blair'." But what about the Tory candidacy of Steven Norris, who seems to have surged past Lord Archer in recent days? "Norris might have enough charisma to keep five mistresses but that's another matter," he said, as he made his exit with delighted cries of "Vote. Ken! Vote Ken!"

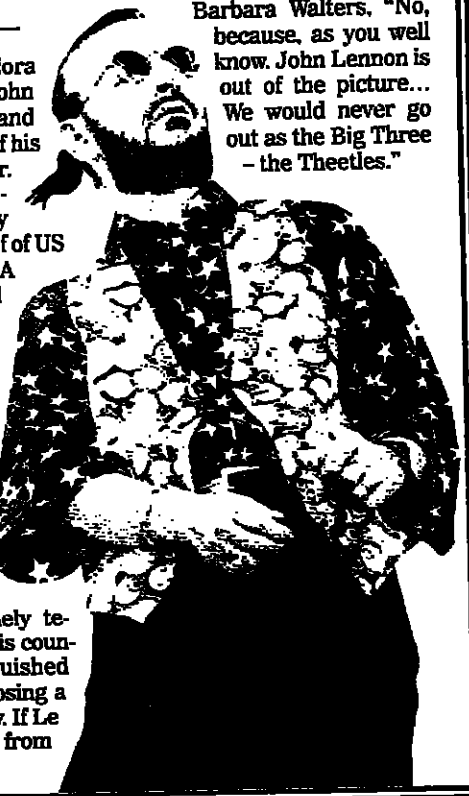
YESTERDAY, Pandora reported on author John Le Carré's sudden and mysterious sacking of his American publisher. One possible explanation: it seems Sonny Mehta, editor-in-chief of US publishers Alfred A Knopf, is also a good friend of Salman Rushdie. Some months ago, Le Carré and Rushdie tried to roast each other alive with verbal flame-throwers in the pages of the Guardian. The various accusations and counter-accusations made by each were extremely tedious, and two of this country's most distinguished writers ended up losing a great deal of dignity. If Le Carré's departure from

his publisher is truly on account of Mehta's friendship with Rushdie, then this feud has sunk below even the school-yard level. Perhaps it's time for Tony Blair to summon the two men to Downing Street for an all-night negotiating session.

TONY BANKS, our forthright Sports Minister, has attracted the attention of at least one publisher who sees potential for a collection of Banks' witticisms. A recent example: thanking Tory MP Michael Fabricant for putting "the camp back into campanology" after a debate on church bells. Some of Banks' remarks have turned into rhetorical boomerangs, notably his comparison of William Hague to a fetus and his doubt about England's capacity to win the World Cup - a daring bit of candour from the nation's Minister for Sport. What to call this book is obviously a prime commercial consideration. Pandora suggests a motivational title: "Tony Banks' Own Goals".

ELSEWHERE IN the literary realm, creepy "Brat Pack" writer Bret Easton Ellis last appeared in print with American Psycho, a blood-and-brand-names slasher novel about a yuppie serial murderer. It's taken him a long time to come up with a worthy sequel, but his British fans (who should be required to register with the police) will be pleased to learn that Brett has completed his next opus. Entitled Glamorama, its plot is described as "super models who become terrorists." Kate and Naomi will have the support of Pandora should they decide to initiate a "fatwa" against the odious Easton Ellis.

SINCE THE death of Linda McCartney, the tabloid press on both sides of the Atlantic has churned out ridiculous speculation about the remaining Beatles joining together for a tour of tribute. On Wednesday, Ringo Starr (below left) appeared on American television and told Barbara Walters, "No, because, as you well know, John Lennon is out of the picture... We would never go out as the Big Three - the Theetles."



WHO FIELD Marshal Wade was, probably not one Englishman in 10,000 could tell you. Even in 1745, heading the English armies trembling before the Jacobite invasion, he didn't, in the end, cut much of a heroic figure. But mysteriously, there he is, immortalised in the fifth verse of the National Anthem, with the extravagant hope that he may "sedition crush, And like a torrent rush, Rebellious Scots to crush, God save the Queen".

There are plenty of oddities about the national anthem. The tune manages to be both banal, and strangely lumpy. It's inspiring only by association, if at all. And the sycophantic words might have been written for a Habsburg empire, or the France of Louis XIV; nothing in them suggests that Britain has, for 300 years, been a bastion of liberty, and admired across Europe and the world for the freedoms it has preserved for its citizens. It's not until the third verse that there's any suggestion that the Queen might have to do some work to deserve all these outpourings of loyalty.

So it's not very surprising if, from time to time, a few restless



PHILIP HENSHER
We'll regret it when we no longer want a song which celebrates our unity and our diversity

voices start to suggest we can do a bit better than "God Save the Queen". The other day, it was Sir Malcolm Williamson, the Master of the Queen's Music, saying that something or other should be done to it. Andrew Lloyd Webber has said it ought to be replaced with "Land of Hope and Glory". An astonishing array of nonentities - the Bishop of Wolverhampton, "senior backbench

MPs", whoever happened to be around when the Sunday newspaper called - have been quoted as denouncing it. Sir Peter Hall thought the words were too violent; me, I'd always thought the line about frustrating the knavish tricks were the one thing that rescued "God Save the Queen". Someone thought Stevie Wonder ought to write a new one. Somebody else thought it might be made more interesting by slowing it down. But its days, with a bit of luck, may be numbered.

The thing is that we're richly endowed with all sorts of alternative national anthems. Like many countries, at moments of great national pride and feeling we turn not to the official national anthem, but to one of half a dozen national favourites. Italians hardly ever sing their anthem, an absurd little ditty called "Fratelli d'Italia". What they spontaneously sing is the chorus of the Hebrew slaves from Verdi's *Nabucco*. Its import, which roughly boils down to "Well, we'd try to do something about all this if we thought we could achieve anything", neatly sums up a good part of their national character. The enviable one, of

course, is "The Marseillaise", which, as all good national songs should be, is spectacularly tactless and violent.

Temporary anthems arise from time to time, but a few stick. It was very striking that, at England's opening match of the World Cup, the crowd dutifully sang the national anthem before the kick-off. But, during the match, what they spontaneously broke into was "Rule Britannia", which is not just a statement of national superiority, but of pride in freedom and independence. Like the American national anthem, it's embarrassingly difficult to sing, but there's something terribly English about its brisk jollity.

Like "Land of Hope and Glory", though, it seems less interested in liberty than in extolling an empire, which might seem more tactless than strictly necessary. And, if devotion goes ahead, we soon won't need a British anthem, but an English one. The perfect one is "Jerusalem", not just a great tune, but great English poetry; an irresistible piece of sublime English eccentricity pushed into mysticism, and, very appealing, something no damned foreigner could possibly be

expected to understand. It's the complicated English character, as seen by itself. You have to admit, as well - "And did those feet..." - it makes a great football song.

It matters, in an odd way, of course it does. It matters in a way that national dress, say, doesn't. It's something that isn't for display to the rest of the world, exactly, but a way of speaking about ourselves, to ourselves. "God Save the Queen" obviously doesn't do the job, but it's striking that at moments of great national emotion, of pride, or grief, we turn to something quite banal, is "Rule Britannia" or Elgar's "Nimrod", and seem to be listening to ourselves singing. Many of these songs have become slightly embarrassing, and members of a multi-cultural society can hardly sing some of these imperial sentiments without, at best, self-consciousness, at worst, a strong feeling of exclusion. But things will have gone wrong when we no longer want a song that celebrates our unity and our diversity; we will regret it if, when we want to sing together, there is nothing better to sing but "In-ger-land, In-ger-land".

Sorry, Sir Paul, an apology is not enough



PETER VICTOR
Not until police fear the black man they're searching might be a detective will racism be eradicated

SO, THE Metropolitan Police are sorry. Sorry that Stephen Lawrence was murdered; sorry that his murder was not investigated properly; sorry that the killers are not behind bars; sorry they have "lost the confidence" of black people. So what?

The only person likely to gain from this apology is Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner. He might avoid further humiliation. He does not relish the prospect of being dragged through cross examination at the grim building above the Elephant & Castle shopping centre in south London, where the sorry saga of how a racist gang got away with murder is being played out. So this week he sent his emissary, assistant commissioner Ian Johnston to atone in his place.

Every copper in London must hope the dead teenager's parents will be assuaged and go away and stop saying things that are "not helpful". They hope black people will accept that Stephen's death, and that the police have said sorry. But they hope in vain.

The Lawrences aren't satisfied - almost nothing the police can do will satisfy them. They want their son's killers brought to justice, a prospect that streaks towards the horizon with its tail on fire. They want the officers who "could have and should have done better" to be disciplined.

I am not satisfied either, nor are most of the black people I know. The inquiry has done little to dispel our worst suspicions. Each revelation about each mistake made by the murder squad detectives who drew the short straw of investigating Stephen's murder has had a weary predictability about it.

Worse is the feeling that Mr Johnston's assertion - "we are determined to learn lessons from this... a great deal has changed" - has a hollow ring. If a black teenager was

left lying in a pool of blood in London tomorrow would the police investigation be any better?

I stress black teenager because it is hard to imagine such a sloppy investigation into the murder of a teenager from any other ethnic group. Would police wait two weeks before arresting the prime suspects in the murder of a Jewish youth? Would they ignore tip-offs pointing to the killers of an English victim?

But why did they do so in the Lawrence case? To answer that you have to delve into the tortured and tortuous relationship between the police and black people in Britain.

The history of antipathy between Black and Blue threads through the riots of the Seventies and Eighties, past the controversial deaths in custody - like that of Joy Gardner, a Jamaican mother who died during a struggle with a police deportation squad - and now stumbling over the abject apology offered to the Lawrences this week.

You have to look at the culture of a police force where of 26,585 Metropolitan Police employees, 857 are

ethnic minorities. Two out of five black and Asian police officers have complained about racism from their colleagues. Not surprisingly, a series of Home Office reports have warned that police attitudes threaten to spark some new conflict. You can see why - the most recent unpublished investigation into stop-and-search revealed black men were four times more likely than whites to be harassed by police.

So it was hardly surprising when Linford Christie, one of Britain's most successful athletes, found himself being harassed by the police because he was driving a new car. Nigel Benn, the internationally known boxer, found his image starting back at him from wanted posters issued by police looking for a mugger. The victim to the attack had pointed to a picture of him in a magazine. A police artist was then asked to simply draw a bobble hat onto the picture and it was distributed - can you imagine the same thing being done with a picture of Barry McGuigan?

My personal experiences are now the stuff of dinner party fables. My first few years as a motorist were punctuated by repeated "pulls" from the police. There was a set pattern: "Is this your car sir?" It is. "What's a black man doing driving a car like this then?" The precise words varied, sometimes there were curses and veiled threats, sometimes not. The theme remained the same.

There's little point questioning what is going between the police and black Britons. We know what's going on. But it might help to ask why?

Some of the answers lie in the way black people have failed to flex what economic and political muscle they have. We don't vote in sufficient numbers for any political party to woo us; our business and enterprise networks are virtually non-existent. We have failed to learn lessons



Police still don't enjoy much confidence among black people

from successful immigrant populations, from the Huguenots to the Asians. Even Tiger Woods couldn't wait to run away from us, describing himself as a "Cablinasian", not black. We have failed to gain a toehold on the ladder to the commanding heights. There are exceptions, obviously, but they are notable and few.

So where does this leave us? Put brutally, nothing of any significance is going to change until black people change it. Not until the police fear the black man they are subjecting to an illegal search might well be a detective superintendent himself - or the victim of a race attack be related to the Home Secretary - will the culpable negligence revealed by the Lawrence inquiry finally be eradicated from the Force.

But surely, the very existence of the Lawrence inquiry is a sign of progress. After all, the police have been forced to atone in public for their failings. Maybe. But cynics might well say that the only reason the Lawrence issue has come so far is because the *Daily Mail*, a paper

Jack Straw is keen to have on his side, weighed in, and named the five prime suspects.

Only when that paper - not known for campaigning on race issues - threw its weight behind Stephen's father Neville, a humble but hard-working plasterer from south London, did the search for the truth about Stephen's murder begin to yield fruit. The reason may be as simple as the fact that Mr Lawrence did some work in the past on the home of a senior *Mail* executive. Not a lofty connection, but it makes the point that being part of society - at all levels - is the only remedy for being treated with contempt.

But for me the most heart-wrenching, searingly sad thing about Stephen Lawrence's murder is that he was a bright young man on his way to university, one of the few young blacks with prospects for a successful future. He might have gone on to get that toehold on the ladder to the commanding heights.

Maybe he could have changed the world. I guess we'll never find out.

THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Is there life after This Life?

"I'm a believer in nudity - I like it when it's frank and honest"

What Daniela Nardini did next ...

The fight for decent pay goes on

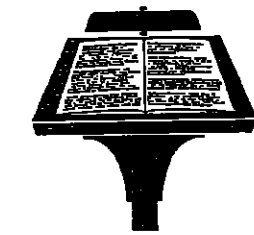
My mother, who was a nurse, joined our union in 1940, and became an activist for the rest of her working life. My dad was a school caretaker, and was also a member of our union. Both were low paid. I first marched with our low-paid members as a nine-year-old boy and unfortunately there's a photograph of me showing my National Health Service spectacles and my school cap.

I began work for the union as soon as I possibly could in the mid-Sixties. The issue that most stirred me in those days could have been any one thing. I was opposed to nuclear weapons. I am opposed to basic human needs such as housing, or utilities like water, gas or electricity being used for private profit. But the one single issue that drove me now as it did then is the issue of low pay. Low pay which means people have to scratch and scrape to exist from week to week. Low pay which means means. Low pay which scars. But not, of course, for all. Just for some. Sky-high incomes for others. We've got shortage among plenty. We've

got poverty amidst wealth. For 100 years some have stood for a statutory national minimum wage below which no man, woman, black or white, young or old should be exploited.

And I want to put on record our profound thanks to those pioneers and I hope nobody minds if I specially mention our dear comrades Alan Fisher and Bernard Dix.

Through the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties we began to gain support, though as late as 1983 I had a drubbing at the Scottish TUC for daring to voice demands for a minimum wage. Not until two years later at the 1985 Labour Party conference and in the following year, 1986, at the TUC conference did we win the whole movement to our cause. Union's evidence to the Low Pay Commission dispelled the myth that a minimum wage will cost jobs - yet we still hear the whingeing voices of those who would deny a living wage to all. As Winston Churchill said - the employer who cannot afford to pay a decent living wage should not be an employer. Now for the first time in histo-



PODIUM
RODNEY BICKERSTAFFE
From a speech by the General Secretary of the public service union Unison to its annual conference.

ry we're on the brink of that new law and I for one am not going to tell those many millions that they haven't even had a small victory, because they have and it is our victory. That law is massively important. But the rate, of course, is another thing. Because £3.60 an hour is the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission. There was even talk that the

Government may water that down. But £3.60 at the end of the 20th century in this, one of the richest nations on earth? Surely that can't be fair, that cannot be right, that cannot be our future.

And the great sadness, of course, is that even at that level over two million of our brothers and sisters will actually get pay increases. That's how bad things are.

We fought, as well, very hard so that young people were not discriminated against. We actually beat down the absurd suggestion made by the Government that if you are under 26 years old you would not get that minimum wage. What a way to win friends amongst the young! That cannot be fair.

Our position is clear. It doesn't matter how young you are, it doesn't matter how old you are, if you are doing the job you get the proper wage. You don't have it watered down.

There's much to be made clearer. Take contractors, for example. Are they going to be able to use the minimum wage to undermine directly employed public services? We would say that cannot be so and

we've also got to make sure so that, unlike in some other countries, the minimum wage doesn't just sit there and get an increase every five or 10 years or when there's a presidential election approaching.

The minimum wage should not be used as a political football. We must make sure it's enforced properly, and isn't simply ignored by employers, as the old wages council edicts were in the past.

We haven't seen the eradication of poverty pay. My life's work and yours has been dedicated to eradicating poverty pay. All we've got is a staging post. We cannot and we will not rest there.

But we can say loud and clear, so that they can hear us: Tony Gordon, make no mistake whatsoever, because the minimum wage has been introduced it does not mean that Unison will accept that rate.

We have a formula of half male median earnings, and will continue to argue for that in the future, until such time as we don't get just a minimum wage but a decent minimum wage.

Conference unite.

Naming and shaming is futile



SUZANNE MOORE

Shame only works when sinners feel so ashamed they feel they must repay a debt to society

Most of us, with the honourable exception of that suave of thugs, Alan Clark, are rather upset at the behaviour of the soccer hooligans who "shame our heroes". Indeed the concept of public shame is back in fashion. Punishment for one's misdemeanours is not enough, some kind of public humiliation is also required. It is as if for too long those in power had no shame.

During the complacency of the Tory years this was certainly the feeling: the cash for questions scandal, the disgracing of Jonathan Aitken, the debacle of the hypocritical politicians who fell like skittles during Major's Back to Basics drive lead to Blair's pledge to re-moralise a demoralised nation.

This brought with it the notion of accountability and alongside it the idea that everyone is to be held responsible for their actions. Jack Straw's stance on parenting and Blair's response to football violence - that the hooligans should lose their jobs - bear the hallmark of an administration that views shame as a useful tool for restoring civic society. They make the link between shame and self-restraint. If we were more aware of the public opprobrium that would greet our actions then perhaps some of us would be less inclined to behave shamefully.

Like many ideas, this one has been prepared earlier, in north America, where all sorts of concerted efforts have been made to publicly shame criminals. Chain-gangs have been reinstated in Florida, not because this has anything to do with rehabilitation but because, the shackling of inmates is a dramatic and symbolic statement to shame prisoners. In Arizona, street-cleaning chain gangs are now sporting traditional black and white striped uniforms.

In Anchorage feckless drivers who don't pay traffic fines now see their names in ads published in their local newspapers, while in Illinois those who have dodged their taxes may have to face the "cyber-shame" of having their names posted on the Internet. In Toronto a man had to walk around a park wearing a sign proclaiming conviction for a indecent act.

Unfortunately, there is scant ev-



Female chain gang workers clean up trash in Phoenix Arizona, dressed in their newly-issued black and white striped uniforms

Eric Drotter/AP

idence that any of this actually works as crime prevention. The other problem is, of course, that it is hard to legislate shame into existence if a society has lost its sense of shame.

When our own dear think-tank Demos suggested that we should seriously reconsider the use of stocks as a deterrent, it was taken as a sign of how out of touch the boffins were. There is something innately old-fashioned, even biblical, about the concept of shame. We no longer live in a culture of public shame but one of public confession, and some ways this has been beneficial. Guilt has replaced shame so that it is enough to declare one's guilt and then confess, as though absolution for one's sins comes from confession alone.

Louise Woodward and the nurses found guilty of murder in Saudi Arabia return home to find, even among their supporters, a sense of unease that these women may try to profit from the death of another person. Gazza finds himself dropped from a

BT campaign and so will lose a lot of money. One feels at the end of the day, that the loss of earnings might hit harder than any sense of public shame. Those who should be truly ashamed of themselves rarely are.

The public apology to the parents of Stephen Lawrence comes too little and too late. The policemen who should be "named and shamed", as well as Stephen's alleged killers, have been seen so far to get away with it. Public apologies do little to rectify systematic racism, just as the Queen's apology to the Maoris - "Sorry for that bit of raping and pillaging all those years ago" - was laughable.

Saying sorry is easy when so often those who are made to feel ashamed are the victims rather than the perpetrators of crimes. Stephen Lawrence's family felt that it was they who were put on trial. When Stan Collymore beat up Ulrika Jonsson, it was her private life that was examined by the media, not his. This is why shame has it abuses as well as its uses. There

are many things these days that we no longer feel ashamed of. In the past women who were raped or abused or gave up babies for adoption hid their pain because they were made to feel as if they had brought shame upon themselves.

Things have moved on but not much. Prostitutes are still more likely to be arrested than the men who visit them. Incidents of rape go unreported because women are still too ashamed to go public. Female bodies and their mysterious workings are still so shameful that we still cannot see adverts for sanitary protection that mention the words blood or menstruation.

Curiously, the refusal to accept that certain kinds of behaviour are shameful has been liberating on occasion. I was not allowed as a girl to be seen eating, smoking or talking to boys when wearing my school uniform, because it would accord with my headmistress bring shame upon the whole school. "We'll have to take them off then, Miss,"

we used to say delightedly. More importantly, it is because women have refused to be made to feel guilty for having abortions that we now have the rights that we do.

The rejection of a particular notion of public shame has been a powerful political tool for many - to be publicly homosexual is no longer shameful. Shame then, can only really exist when there is a consensus about what is and isn't acceptable, in cultures where there is a high degree of conformity. Japan is always cited as a society in which the concept of public shame effectively regulates behaviour, although even this is said to be breaking down.

Yet in our own far more fragmented society, where moral relativism is the order of the day and we have become far more liberal on social issues, it is interesting that the word shame far more usefully attaches itself to abuses of economic rather than personal power. Despite the efforts of Blair and his cronies to synthesise a politically correct

version of shame, the public is still bound to feel more sympathy for the mother of a teenage truant than for a fat-cat who seemingly wields power without accountability.

This seems to me a useful distinction to maintain. The naming and shaming of paedophiles for instance has actually achieved very little in terms of protecting children, whereas the naming and shaming of someone like cash-for-questions MP Neil Hamilton does serve some useful regulatory purpose.

Shame can only work as a useful social tool when it is organic: sinners feel so ashamed that they feel that they must repay a debt to society. Likewise, society has to feel so stung against that it is not prepared to forgive for a very long time. Whether we are talking of disgraced Tory politicians or the idiots in Marseilles it is quite clear that some people really have no shame. And as uncomfortable as it may be to admit it, there is not a damn thing we can do about it.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW MACKAY



The shadow Ulster Secretary explains why his party broke the bi-partisan approach to the peace process

A BI-PARTISAN policy in Northern Ireland is an important part of a lasting settlement in that troubled province. However, it is the duty of an Opposition to scrutinise the Government and, where necessary, to speak out. We cannot give them a blank cheque and nor did they when they were in Opposition. Labour voted against the Prevention of Terrorism Act at critical times in the fight against the IRA. But still an overall bi-partisan policy held.

We supported the Belfast Agreement as a significant step forward, but were not comfortable with some aspects of it, particularly the early release of terrorist murderers which we found sickening. Nevertheless we accepted that this was part of an overall agreement and so reluctantly consented to legislation. That is why we supported the Government's legislation last Monday.

We then sought to amend a fatal flaw. The Bill merely states that Mo Mowlam only has to take into account whether paramilitaries are co-operating with the decommissioning body before prisoners could be released.

Sadly our amendment was rejected, even though the Prime Minister has said: "It is essential that organisations that want to benefit from the early release of prisoners should give up violence. Decommissioning is part of that". The Bill was fatally flawed without our amendment and we were forced to vote against it last night. We will oppose it in the Lords.

It must be pointed out again that this has become a matter of trust in the Prime Minister, because without his assurances on decommissioning many ordinary decent people would not have voted yes in the referendum, and now they feel badly let down.

Victor Meldrew goes to hell

IMAGINE Victor Meldrew in the Third Reich. Imagine a grumpy middle-aged man with a frail wife, tormented by a sense of failure, worried about money, and bothered by real or imagined slights from colleagues. Imagine that very "English" cussedness turning into resilience, defiance and resourcefulness: the "Dunkirk spirit". Then you have another Victor: this one a professor of languages at the Dresden Technical University, coming to terms with Nazi rule in Germany.

Klemperer was the son of a Reform rabbi, but like his brothers converted to Christianity. He served Germany in the Great War, a true patriot. He married a non-Jew and settled down to a life in service of Kultur. His experiences, chronicled in his diary, answer many questions about the way German Jews responded to Nazi persecution, and why so many stayed to the bitter end.

Until Hitler's foreign policy triumphs in 1935-6, Klemperer was convinced the regime would collapse. Surveying the international outrage that greeted the boycott of Jewish shops he concluded "the Jewish business... will sink them". After Hitler engineered a massacre of rivals in July 1934, seen by historians as the consolidation of his power, Klemperer observed "They cannot survive this blow". It seemed unbelievable that Germans could swallow the twaddle dished up by Goebbels.

Not until 1937 did Klemperer accept with horror that "Hitlerism is after all more deeply and firmly rooted in the nation... than I would like to admit". This was crushing because it excluded him from the German people: "my inner sense of belonging is gone". But where else could he live? The practical obstacles to emigration were insuperable.

Klemperer only seriously considered emigration after the pogrom in November 1938. By then destinations such as Lima appeared attractive. But never Palestine: "In what way are the Zionists different from the Nazis?" He clung



FRIDAY BOOK

I SHALL BEAR WITNESS:
THE DIARIES OF VICTOR KLEMPERER
1933-41
TRANSLATED BY MARTIN CHALMERS
WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £20, 400PP

to a 19th-century idea of civic nationalism that accorded Jews equality with other citizens. In 1899 he defiantly declared "Liberal and German forever". Assisted by his wife, Eva, he "dug in". He was dismissed from his job, so he worked on his publications at home. They took his telephone, so he bought a car to be able to travel and stay in touch with the diminishing circle of friends who would meet with a "non-Aryan". The company of anti-Nazi Catholics made up for the colleagues who cut him dead. Earning from the public library, he found a friendly bookseller.

The more the Nazis throw at him, the more he grows in stature. One cannot help admiring a man who coolly deals with the "council gardener" who (only in Germany) inspects the lawn for weeds and convicts him of horticultural turpitude. If the regime manufactured Jews, as he bitterly noted, with its petty acts of oppression, it also endowed them with nobility. "This sadistic machine simply rolls over us", but each time he picked himself up, dusted himself off and went back to his writing.

Klemperer's diary offers a superb evaluation of the mentality and conduct

of ordinary Germans. The local policeman was apologetic when engaged in official acts of harassment. Party members who were courteous during business dealings simultaneously uttered anti-Jewish platitudes. Despite his isolation he always had "Aryan" contacts who supplied food or tobacco. They were hardly "willing executioners".

Only twice was he the victim of verbal abuse, each time from youngsters. During a spell in jail for breaching the blackout regulations, he was treated quite properly, even though he was being victimised on racial grounds.

Yet the noose of regulations tightened. In May 1940, the Klemperers were forced into a "Jews' House" in central Dresden. Though denied telephones, news about ghettos in Poland reached them. Indeed, the inhabitants of the "Jews' House" seemed to know more about the impending invasion of Russia than did Stalin. In August 1941, Jews were banned from buying tobacco and from emigrating. The former hurt Klemperer more than the latter. Soon, terrifying information arrived about the deportation of German Jews to Poland; but now there was no way out.

The imposition of the Yellow Star was shattering. Yet on one of his trips into town, marked as a Jew, he noted expressions of amity in the eyes of strangers and recorded: "There is no doubt that the people feel the persecution of the Jews to be a sin."

These diaries record Jews and Germans at their best and their worst. Klemperer is a brilliant guide to hell whose fastidious attention to civic virtues and human decency, analytical lucidity and candour exemplify the European culture the Nazis wanted to destroy - but never could.

The reviewer is Director of the Wiener Library and Professor of Modern Jewish History at Southampton University

DAVID CESARANI

FRIDAY POEM

SHE INSTRUCTS THE BRETHREN ON THE LAWS OF LOVE
BY THOMAS LYNCH

You are but one in a long line of rapists or lovers. Eventually, she will forget the names, the faces, the earnest promises, foreplay and afterglow. She will remember this: how it was always a question of whether to bathe first or first call the cops in to save the evidence.

Here is the comfort: she does not mean to hurt you.

She will hardly press charges or hold a grudge. But do not ask Why if, after you've made love, she weeps quietly. It is not yours to know. Do not take it personally. Roll over. Go to sleep. It has nothing to do with you.

From Thomas Lynch's third collection, 'Still Life in Milford', just published by Jonathan Cape (£8).

'The Reader' is a fine novel...

A sensitive, daring, deeply moving book about the tragic results of fear and the redemptive power of understanding'

RUTH RENDELL

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'It demands to be read, to be talked about and to be re-read... For generations to come, people will be reading and marvelling over Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader*'

NATASHA WALTER, EVENING STANDARD

The Reader

Translated by Carol Brown Janeway



Bernhard Schlink

'Lays out boundaries and opens doors to the heart... a moving, suggestive and ultimately hopeful work'

New York Times



PHOENIX PAPERBACKS

Cressida Ridley

THE DEATH of Cressida Ridley marks the end of an era in which the British contribution to archaeological research in Greece has relied as much on the dedication, energies and indeed self-sacrifice of individuals as on the funding of research councils and universities. With a keen intellect, down-to-earth approach to life and an unsurpassed fund of knowledge and anecdote she would, and did, make an ideal companion on a desert island.

Her devotion to archaeology was aroused by participation in fieldwork with a local amateur group in the barrow-filled Wiltshire countryside and in 1961, she enrolled for the Postgraduate Diploma in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London, under the guidance of Professor John Evans.

Her success in this won her a scholarship to the British School of Archaeology at Athens, which became the focus for her research and earned her continued affection and support. Soon after, she had her first taste of fieldwork in Greece when she joined the excavations Professor Evans directed with Colin Renfrew (later Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn) on the tiny Aegean island of Saliagos.

What was originally intended as just one more in many interests became an absorbing passion to be maintained for the rest of her life. For the next 30 years, she hardly missed a summer's excavation, in Crete, Euboea, Greek Macedonia and Turkey, driving out and back each year through Austria and Yugoslavia, often alone, always intrepid.

She learnt modern Greek fluently and translated a number of books, including Stylianos Alexiou's guide to the Heraklion Museum. She visited museums and collections throughout Greece and the southern Balkans and became a leading expert on Greek neolithic pottery.

In 1971, she was invited to mount a rescue excavation at Serbia in the Haliakmon valley, in collaboration with Dr Katerina Romiopoulou of the Greek Archaeological Service. This neolithic site was under imminent threat from a hydro-electric scheme and for three summers Ridley or-

ganised an international team, living in a soon-to-be-flooded village, with an erratic supply of electricity and water. The exploration of this site made a major contribution to understanding the architecture of a Greek village and its way of life seven millennia ago. Strategically situated on the principal route from north to south Greece, it lay beside the bridge which her uncle had blown up in the Allied retreat from Macedonia in 1941.

The large quantities of finds from the excavation, especially the pottery, were to occupy Cressida Ridley for many years to come, as she

Always intrepid, for 30 years she hardly missed an excavation, in Crete, Euboea, Greek Macedonia and Turkey

meticulously sorted and recorded them in the museum in Florida where they are now stored.

The preparation of an excavation report on any site is a laborious process, a true labour of love, and that on Serbia has been no exception. By this spring the first volume of *Servia - a Rescue Operation* was ready in proof and Ridley had checked and discussed every page with her collaborators, and ruthlessly corrected their grammar. Publication will continue, but without the deep knowledge and sound judgement of the principal investigator.

Born Helen Cressida Bonham Carter in 1915, the granddaughter of H.H. Asquith, the eldest child of Sir Maurice and Lady Violet Bonham Carter and the sister-in-law of Jo Grimond, her outlook and politics were staunchly Liberal, but she remained on the periphery of political life. Both her boundless curiosity and

capacity for logical analysis were fostered by regular visits to Austria and Eastern Europe between the ages of 15 and 19 to finish her education. Surprisingly, Victorian family attitudes prevented her from taking up a place at London University - which she would have exploited to the full - but did nothing to quench her catholic appetite for the arts and literature, music or science.

She found a partner with similar interests in Jasper Ridley (whose earlier exploits included a summons for common assault with a missile after he and his companions had defenestrated an inedible pudding served up once too often at the college table). They married in June 1939 but their life together was all too brief. Jasper enlisted and was killed in 1943 following an escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy. Cressida was left to be both mother and father to the son, Adam, whom he never saw.

Fiercely independent and seemingly with boundless energy - she rarely slept for more than three or four hours in later years - her own war effort included training as a nurse and using her fluent German to contribute to propaganda broadcasts. She later made her home in Stockton, near Westminster, where in her childhood she had been a regular visitor.

She carried out time and motion studies for a local farmer as mechanisation continued its radical changes to the landscape and found time to take part in the many activities of the local community. She always read voraciously and kept up with all the developments in the arts. She had persuaded her father-in-law (as one of the trustees of the Tate), for example, to purchase Henry Moore's work when it was still little known. She had decided, if eclectic tastes ("If Richard - Wagner; if Strauss - Johann").

Those who worked in Greece with her over the years have vivid memories: a vast repertoire of nursery rhymes to entertain the youngest members of the team or songs and madrigals to share with all; boiling eggs on a camping gas stove at four in the morning so that

team mates would have no excuse to miss breakfast before an early start; exerting her formidable authority on workmen for whom male chauvinism was a way of life; discussing long into the cicada-loud night the latest performance of England's opening batsmen, the merits of the short list for the Booker Prize, the historical background to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the minutiae of neolithic pottery found at scores of different sites.

She was excellent company to students of all ages: famous for pithy comments or provocative debating positions. When offering her help she would rarely take no for an answer, with washing-up ("you wash, I'll smash"), insisting on giving up her camp bed to visitors ("don't mind me, I prefer sleeping on the floor") or her generosity to students from Britain or Greece, with her books, her advice or her house.

As a girl, she told us, she had hoped for a large family: she took pride in the achievements of her son, Sir Adam Ridley (even though he had been recruited into the Tory fold) and her daughter-in-law Biddy. Her three young grandsons, Jasper, Luke and Jo, gave her endless delight and a new lease of life. Those who shared with her the experience of discovery, the privations of rough living and the relaxation of informed conversation are proud to have been included, without question, as members of her extended family.

Cressida Ridley continued the great British tradition of collaboration between the expert amateur and the paid professional which has contributed so much to pushing back the frontiers of human knowledge, including our own past. Villagers in Greece often asked in recent years why she didn't retire and draw her pension: our only reply could be that she would only retire when she had found the answers to all her questions.

Kenneth Wardle

Helen Laura Cressida Bonham Carter, archaeologist: born London 22 April 1915; married 1939 Jasper Ridley (died 1943; one son); died Salisbury, Wiltshire 10 June 1998.



Ridley in 1965, en route to an excavation on the Aegean island of Saliagos

Sheikh Mohamed Mutwali Sharawi

EGYPT'S BEST-KNOWN Islamic cleric, Sheikh Mohamed Mutwali Sharawi, got his chance of stardom at the age of 39, in the last year of President Nasser's rule, when he took part in the country's first ever Islamic television religious discussion programme. *Nour ala Nour* ("Light upon Light") was presented by Ahmad Farrag, a handsome but failed cinema actor who had gone on to make a career in religious programmes. Within a few years Sharawi had upstaged Farrag and become the Billy Graham of the Islamic world to an estimated 70 million Arabic-speaking viewers.

The Sheikh's evangelist mission via television screens and millions of audio cassettes was made possible by lavish subsidies from conservative oil sheikhs and wealthy Islamic fundamentalists. They played a vital role in transforming public opinion in Egyptian society from liberalism to medieval repression, as the Egyptian writer Ibrahim Issa put it in his book *Turbans and Doggers* (1994), which examines the dual effect of the fundamentalists' campaign of terror and equally effective "terrorising of the collective mind".

Born in 1911 in village of Daqadous in the Nile Delta, Sharawi's primary education was confined to *kutub*, the Koran teaching schools for peasant children where the emphasis was on learning verses of Koran by heart and believing every word without question.



The *spydno*, as the children referred to the cleric, teacher, used his cane liberally to lash those who did not recite the verse verbatim, or those who dared to "think" and interpret what they learnt.

In the 1920s Al-Azhar, the official church and the seat of Islamic learning and Arabic literature, condemned Alaturk's modernisation of Turkey and his revolution in education as he replaced Arabic letters with Latin ones, making books easy to print and accessible to the public. Al-Azhar, controlled by men whose intellectual training came from *kutub*, forbade Egypt - which had broken ties with the Ottoman Empire in 1922 - from going the same way.

Sharawi graduated from Al-Azhar

in 1941, and received his teacher's qualification in 1943. His view of the world was very much influenced by his village outlook. In fact Sharawi did not break from the early *kutub* taboo of daring to interpret the Koran until his mid-sixties. Last year he boasted that he hadn't read a single book since 1943 except for the Koran.

In the 1940s Sharawi raised King Farouk to a near divine status in a poem linking him to the founder of Islam, Prophet Mohamed. He also wrote a religious poem glorifying the late dictator President Nasser.

As minister of religious endowments in 1978, Sharawi defended President Sadat in parliament, quoting a verse from the Koran - which Muslims believe to be the word of Allah revealed to Mohamed: "you are accountable to him but he is accountable to no one". The original seventh-century verse referred to Allah.

From the 1970s Sharawi used his populist status to mount media attacks on intellectual giants like the late Youssef Idress, Egypt's great modern philosopher the late Tawfiq el-Hakim and Zaki Naguib Mahmoud, and the novelist Naguib Mahfouz. Their sin was to question some of the Sheikh's reactionary fatwas and opinions. They warned that placing him above the possibility of making errors would be damaging to the nation's intellectual health.

But state-controlled media came to the defence of the Sheikh. The government of President Hosni

Mubarak wanted to appear more Islamic than the Islamic terrorists, so gave Sharawi primetime for his "interpretation of the Koran" open lessons, while cutting time given to the secular debating programmes that had flourished from the 1950s to the late 1970s.

On his death, sources in Saudi Arabia, where Sharawi was seconded from Al-Azhar in the 1950s and again in the late 1970s to teach in the King Abdel Azziz University, poured praise on the Sheikh and lamented "the great loss of the Islamic nations".

Moustafa Mashhour, the leader of Egypt's largest fundamentalist group, the Muslim Brotherhood, which introduced terrorism into the political scene in the late 1940s, stated, "Sharawi's fingerprints on Islamic teaching were matchless". Sharawi was a founder member of the group with Sheikh Hassan el Banna in 1937, but later criticised their "impotence: they started violence before they were ready to take over", he told me in a 1987 interview.

Human rights activists and feminists remember him in a rather different light. Sharawi issued fatwas supporting the mutilation of female genitalia (female circumcision) and ruled that women should not be appointed to top government positions or become judges as women "have incomplete minds and faith".

Doctors were perplexed by his fatwa banning organ transplants and donating organs after death as

blasphemy: "you have no right to donate your organs because you are only a keeper of that body which belongs to Allah".

In the early 1990s Sharawi apparently influenced several of Egypt's top belly dancers and female film stars who announced that they had seen the light and were going to take up the veil, all thanks to the Sheikh's teachings. Press reports claimed however, that they had been given large sums of money from rich oil sheikhs - and that some took the veil away after discovering that the money was less than the agreed sum. Sharawi and his followers attacked the reports, but neither he nor they demanded correction from the editors.

Some of Sharawi's fatwas were either contradictory or applied double standards. He ruled against paying interest on bank deposits, yet he was the religious adviser to one of Egypt's top Islamic banking finance institutions which used pyramid savings schemes that started off paying inflated returns and collapsed in 1988 robbing thousands of poor Egyptians of an estimated £3 billion of their savings.

When I interviewed Sheikh Sharawi in 1987 in London, he was staying at the Hampstead house of the chairman of Al-Huda Islamic bank. He savaged the Iranians' call to "internationalise" the holy Islamic sites in Mecca after Saudi police had clashed with Iranian pilgrims and

killed over 200 of them - Saudi Arabia was footing the bill for his London trip for medical treatment. But he refused to condemn Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.

His preaching played a pivotal role in moving Egyptian society from its position 20 years ago as an open liberal, secular, pluralistic, debating culture - a lighthouse for the whole of the Middle East - into a conservative, Islamic, closed and often xenophobic society, displaying hatred to the country's Coptic (Christian Orthodox) minority of 10 million who predate Islam in Egypt by seven centuries. He called them *ahidhama* or second-class citizens who should either convert to Islam or pay *jizyah*, a poll tax.

Terror attacks by Islamic extremists against Copts in upper Egypt have increased in the past few years. Although Sharawi several times parroted the Egyptian government's official line condemning the Islamists' violence, he emphasised that Egypt should be a Muslim nation - the declared goal of the terrorist groups.

While other Islamic intellectuals left a wealth of books and essays which scholars can study for generations to come, Sharawi's legacy is the cassettes and video tapes of his preaching.

He even attacked electricity as being against human nature because it turned night into day and made people "active at night". But

after consultation with the government he then issued a fatwa stating that men who had to work at night could sleep during the day "as long as they get up to pray".

There has, however, been a minority of Egyptian intellectuals horrified that the national display of mourning surrounding Sharawi's death has proven what they feared years ago: the official and popular endorsement of preaching the message of bigotry and non-tolerance.

Like his life, the death of Sharawi is yet another proof that little has changed in the structure of power which ensured the supremacy of the Egyptian State for almost 6,000 years. The official religion might have changed twice before Christ, and three times after his death, but the triangle of power remains more or less the same.

The state deploys its two powerful wings to guarantee an overall tight rule over the population and possibly over the region: the priestly class has always remained faithfully subservient to the Pharaoh, as the head of state, and the army.

The difference now is that the priestly class is no longer dependent on the state for its massive wealth.

Adel Darwish

Mohamed Mutwali Sharawi, Islamic preacher: born Daqadous, Egypt 15 April 1911; married (three sons, two daughters); died Giza, Egypt 17 June 1998.

Basil Saunders

BASIL SAUNDERS was one of Britain's pioneers of modern public relations in its path towards professionalism.

That he was the author of a popular booklet entitled *Bluff Your Way* in PR (1991) only served to cloud the fact that he was an accomplished practitioner and had handled programmes as varied as tourism, margarine, glass, and cattle food. But he became best known for his work in the realm of healthcare, pharmaceuticals and veterinary products.

His personal efforts and influence, in his capacity as Head of Public Relations Services at the Wellcome Foundation (1963-78), helped considerably to bridge the gap that existed between reticent scientists and researchers and representatives of the media whose job was to report and comment on such matters, and who were faced with reluctance bordering on ill-will.

But the pre-eminent values which shone through all his work were his

humanity and his inborn sense of social conscience. By way of illustration: in the early Sixties he threatened to resign his directorship of a leading consultancy if it proceeded to handle the affairs of a prominent tobacco company. This sensitivity did not however deter him from advising a manufacturer of contraceptives who held the Royal Navy contract.

An early member, from 1954, of the then fledgling Institute of Public Relations, he served on its council in 1968 and on various of its committees. It was characteristic that, when chairman of its membership committee, he sat its professional diploma examination under a heavily disguised pseudonym: "to see if I can pass". He did with flying colours. He continued to serve as a trustee of the institute's benevolent fund until shortly before his death and ran quietly and personally a form of placement service to assist those less fortunate.

Basil Saunders was born in Fife,

the son of Commander J.E. Saunders RN, who was listed as missing, presumed dead, in 1941 when Basil, aged 16, was attending Merchant Taylors' School. Two years later Basil Saunders joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a Sub-Lieutenant. On demobilisation in 1946 he went up to Oxford University, and gained an MA in English and Modern Languages at Wadham College.

Fluent in French and with a working knowledge of German and Italian, Saunders spent a year teaching English at the Collège de Tarascon in 1950-51. Throughout his life he remained an ardent francophile; the only headgear he ever owned (and frequently wore around town) was an outside black beret.

Following a year as a trainee advertising executive in London and in New York he joined the staff of the US General Electric Company as a speech-writer. He later confided that he resigned when he found that he

had drafted one speech quoting a second speech commending sentiments expressed in a third speech, all having emanated from his own pen.

He returned to England in 1954, and entered public relations. He served three years as Public Relations Officer of the British Institute of Management, five years with Pritchard, Wood and Partners (which later became Infoplan), the pre-eminent consultancy of the day, followed by his 14 years as Head of Public Relations of the Wellcome Foundation. Always one for a change and a challenge he took on the Director-Generalship of Ashlib - the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux - from 1978 to 1980. Dealing with a divided loyalty membership and governing body he literally walked out of a tempestuous council meeting.

After a year as Public Relations Officer to the Arts Council in 1981, Saunders joined old colleagues from his Infoplan days, and spent the bal-

ance of his professional life from 1981-93 with Traverse-Healy & Regester, later Charles Barker Traverse-Healy.

His hatred of prejudice and pomposity was often misread by those against whom it was directed as a form of anti-establishmentarianism. Far from it. He held tradition and ritual in high regard. He wrote poetry and short stories for radio and from time to time gave an illustrated lecture, accompanying himself on the piano, entitled "Give Me that Old Time Musical Hall". His take-off of Noel Coward was a delight. He was the owner of a magnificent piano and a stock of 1920s and 1930s rolls. Soirees at his north London home were fun affairs.

Saunders started out as a Quaker but in later life veered towards the High Church, probably influenced by his late wife Betty whom he married in 1957. She was the perfect counterpart: first, an unlikely crime reporter on the *Daily Mirror* and, later, the distinguished Deputy Editor of



the *Church Times*. But Basil Saunders took his religion lightly. He once opened a public ecumenical gathering with the phrase "Friends, Romans and Countrymen".

In nearly every way he was the antithesis of the popular perception

of a successful public relations executive. Politically he was liberal, emotionally a humanist, and sartorially a near disaster. He was an undoubted intellectual; his curiosity was unbounded and matched his enthusiasm for life.

Tim Traverse-Healy

Basil Saunders, public relations consultant: born 12 August 1925; Public Relations Officer, British Institute of Management 1954-57; Public Relations Executive, Pritchard, Wood and Partners (later Infoplan) 1957-63; Head of Public Relations Services, Wellcome Foundation 1963-78; Director-General, Ashlib (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux) 1978-80; consultant, Traverse-Healy Ltd 1981-94; director, Traverse-Healy and Regester (later Charles Barker Traverse-Healy) 1984-90; married 1957 Betty Smith (died 1997; two sons, four daughters); died London 10 May 1998.

John Marriott

THE ART of being a good governor of a sensitive long-term maximum security prison is not easily defined. The role demands a fine touch, and a demonstrable care for individuals.

During John Marriott's five years at Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight (1990-95), some of England's most difficult and demanding prisoners were routinely held there. That this period was marked neither by significant disorder, nor by serious assault, is a tribute to the quality of leadership he displayed. He understood that managing long-term imprisonment requires that prisoners should have the opportunity to anticipate and reflect upon events, to have milestones of achievement providing meaning and structure within a long sentence.

No one who met Marriott, whether staff member or prisoner, ever felt they

At Parkhurst, the most challenging of environments, he proved that treating people decently could make a difference

were taken lightly or dismissively. This capacity to engage with people of all backgrounds and to make them feel fundamentally important was a great skill and no artifice. Marriott loved people, and related emotionally and instinctively to them. Prisoners and staff both recognised the integrity of the man with whom they dealt. Perhaps it is a weakness in such as Marriott that they assume that those above them in the hierarchy will display similar qualities.

It was the escape of three top security prisoners from Parkhurst on 3 January 1995 which led to Marriott's suspension shortly afterwards, and ultimately to the sacking in October that year of Derek Lewis, then Director-General of the Prison Service, by the Home Secretary Michael Howard. It led too to a welter of claim and counter-claim by each of these about the responsibility for decision-making in the

Prison Service; in this case, who had responsibility for deciding whether Marriott should be moved out of Parkhurst. And so a man hitherto almost universally regarded as conscientious, caring, thoughtful and committed, found himself to be in the eye of a storm, or at least a House of Commons debate.

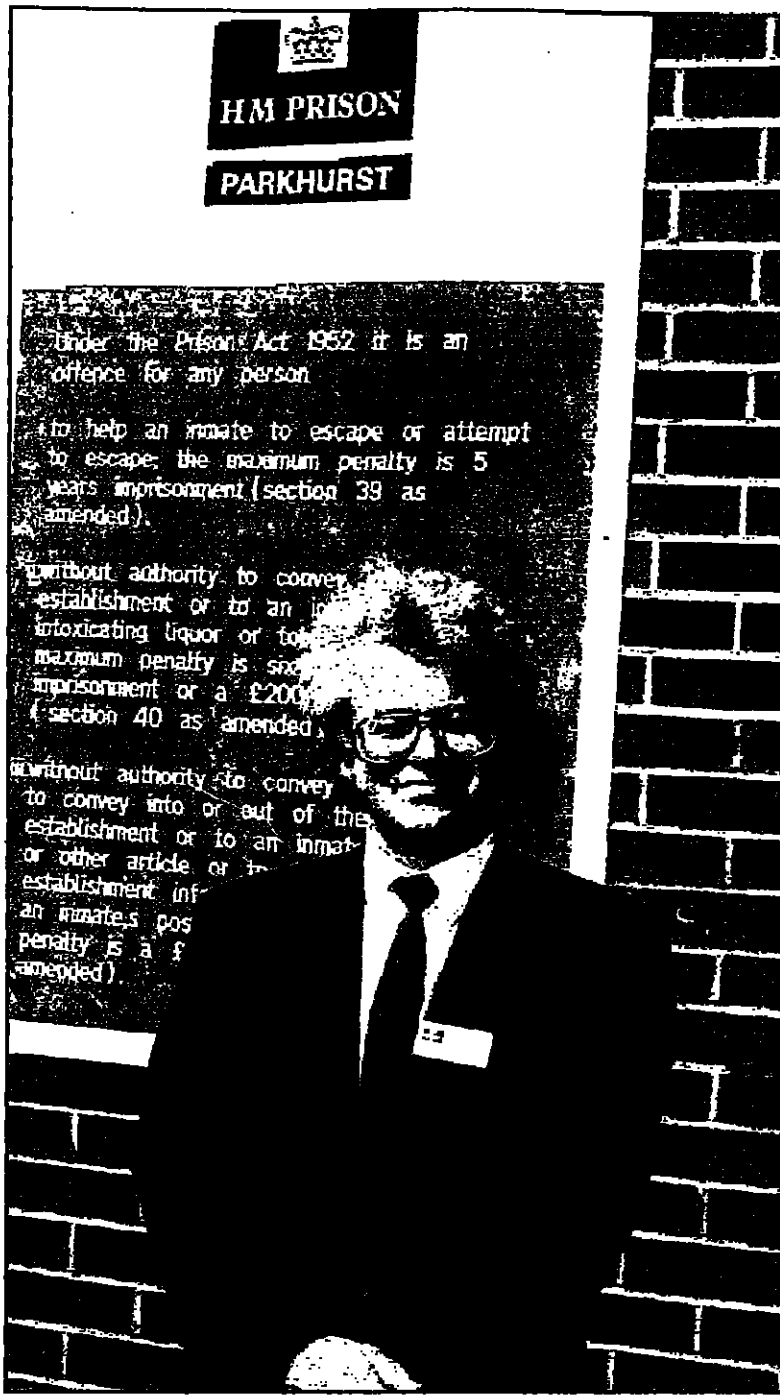
Once he was safely gone from the job, the decision was taken to remove the establishment from the maximum security estate - tacit acknowledgement at least that Marriott alone was not culpable for the break-out.

Marriott was born in Wiltshire in 1947, and after taking a degree in Physics at Hull University, joined the Prison Service in 1970 as an assistant governor. He was posted initially to Gaynes Hall Open Borstal and then to Eastchurch Prison on the Isle of Sheppey. He briefly left the Prison Service to work in residential social work in Birmingham, and on his return in 1975 served at Winslow Green Prison in Birmingham. He moved on promotion in 1978 to Hull top security prison and then as governor to Nottingham in 1983 and Lewes in 1985. His report from Lewes at the time of industrial action by prison staff, when a police response was slow in coming, makes for frightening reading. He was keeping ahead, just, of a rolling riot.

After a period at Prison Service Headquarters, Marriott was further promoted to Class 1 governor and posted to take charge of Parkhurst. It is rare for anyone to have been promoted to that rank so young. Although not an islander by birth there was a real sense of someone having come home. There was a job, a house, an environment in a community which he fully embraced.

Like many reaching adulthood in the Sixties, Marriott felt strongly that treating people decently could and would make a difference. He not only practised this art, but proved it could work, in the most challenging and least propitious of environments.

After leaving the Prison Service, when it was clear that his prospects of ever governing again were remote, he joined the NHS Community Health Trust on the Isle of Wight as Head of Mental Health Care. Marriott's first marriage, to Terry Spelman, ended in painful divorce in 1988. Like many prison governors, he remained wedded to the Prison Service. When that "marriage" too went sour he relied much upon his second wife, Marianne, whom he had married in 1982.



The competitive edge which Marriott had displayed earlier in life playing rugby, squash and badminton, was gradually replaced by sailing and the earlier restless energy to some extent was absorbed in the kitchen garden of his Isle of Wight home.

My shock of hearing that John Marriott had died was the shock of incredulity: that this man who was above all so very full of life could now be dead. It is a minor irony that he had been just a little luckier, and continued to be what he had been hitherto, a successful, imaginative, creative prison governor; he would never have come to public attention and never have warranted a broadsheet obituary. This irony would not have been lost on him. He found humour in the bleakest of times, and in the direst of situations.

Francis Masserick

John Randolph Marriott, prison officer, born 4 January 1947; Governor, Parkhurst Prison 1990-95; Head of Mental Health Care, Isle of Wight NHS Community Health Trust 1995-98; twice married (three daughters); died Brighton, Isle of Wight 11 June 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

BRIAN HARRISON

The motorway effect: movement, not travel

IN FORTY years, motorways have changed everything. Until Harold Macmillan opened the Preston by-pass (now part of the M6) in 1958, they seemed un-English: symbols of American extravagance or (worse) of German militarism. But their engineering triumphs, elegant bridges and imaginative landscaping soon made an impact. "These are the cathedrals of the modern world," wrote Barbara Castle in 1966, watching the Almondsbury interchange being built near Bristol, where the M5 joins the M4. The "Spaghetti Junction" between the M5 and the M6 near Birmingham seemed a marvel when opened in 1972, and when the M25 at last encircled London in 1986 the tentacles joined to form a national network.

Motorway mileage rose more than five-fold in the 1960s and more than doubled again in the 1970s. The entire country was drawn more tightly together, and backwaters joined the mainstream. The M1 and M25 opened up Essex and East Anglia, for example, and old railway towns like Crewe and Nuneaton went into relative decline. Big warehouses sprang up on the greenfield sites suddenly enhanced in value by motorway junctions. England's London/Birmingham/Manchester commercial and industrial axis was reinforced. So much so, that on 3 April 1997 the IRA thought it worth seeking the publicity value of disrupting the central motorway system with two bombs and a hoax device planted at strategic junctions.

Life speeded up, railways went into steeper decline, lorries grew bigger, and motels (the first of them, the Dover Stage, built in 1956-57) appeared. The 70 mile-an-hour speed limit, introduced in 1965, was being breached by a third of drivers 10 years later because better technology made it easier to drive fast. Relatively safely, though. The accident-rate fell dramatically: no more suicide lanes and hazardous overtaking on major trunk routes. It seemed an age since the early 1950s when it took a complete morning to get from London to Cambridge, a whole day to get from Oxford to Cumberland.

By the 1960s, disillusionment was setting in. "We do not ride on the motorway," Thoreau could have said; "it rides upon us". When the scheme for an inner-London "motorway box" was rejected in the early 1970s, a limit was set to motorways' destruction of British towns. But when the



Macmillan: opened the first motorway

motorway protestor John Tyme published his *Motorways versus Democracy* in 1978, he could still blame them on a sort of malign conspiracy. Motorway noise has gradually crept up on us. A survey in 1995 showed that within the preceding 30 years an area of tranquillity the size of Wales had been lost. Motorways had spread out their spikes of noise from the towns, leaving only Lincolnshire, the north Pennines, North Devon and the Welsh marches in peace. "What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?" William Cobbett hated road improvements, and long ago praised peasants who spent their lifetime in one place. Motorways would have rendered him speechless.

Attitudes changed as a result. For pleasure as well as work, we drive ever faster and further. "Motorway madness" soon became a familiar phrase, with the American term "road rage" first making its appearance in June 1994. Fewer people now lived in their county of birth. The wrinkles of English localism - once central to cultural, religious and political life - were being ironed out. J.R. Priestley predicted in 1933 that for a people moving at 400 miles an hour "there will be movement, but, strictly speaking, no more travel", because the places visited would have become identical. We're already getting there fast.

Brian Harrison is writing the final volume in *The New Oxford History of England* (1951-90), to be published by Oxford University Press

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Parachute Regiment, visits Aldershot and presents new colours to the regiment. The Duke of York unveils the restored Great West Doorway, and meets veterans of the Association Amicale des Anciens des Groupes Lourds, in York. The Duke of York, Minister, meets staff and students of the Joint School for Adventurous Training Instructors, Llanwrst, on the River Llugwy and Capel Pinnace, Gwynedd, and opens Aberdovey Golf Clubhouse, Gwynedd. The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Business Achievement Award Trust, attends a reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, followed by a luncheon in grounds nearby, and, as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, attends the Edinburgh and Border Group 30th Birthday celebrations and opens a new indoor arena at Monteviot Gardens, Ancrum, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire. The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, Surrey University, presides at a conferment of degrees ceremony at Guildford Cathedral, Surrey.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Robert Ainsworth MP; a Lord Commissioner; 46; Sir Michael Alexander, former UK Permanent Representative, Nato, 62; Miss Aung San Suu Kyi, General Secretary, National League for Democracy, Burma, 53; Sir Robin Brook, businessman and administrator, 90; Mr Neil Chalmers, director, Natural History Museum, 56; Sir Terence Clark, diplomat, 64; The Right Rev John Dennis, former Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 67; Miss Ena Evans, former Headmistress, King Edward VI High School, Birmingham, 60; The Right Rev John Hind, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 53; Sir Michael Jay, Ambassador to France, 52; M Louis Jourdan, actor, 78; Mr Bryan Kneale, sculptor, 68; Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles, former MP, 84; Brigadier Eileen Nolan, former director, WRAC, 78; Mr Mike O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Home Office, 44; Sir Raymond Powell, former MP, 70; Sir Francis Purchas, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; Mr Salman Rushdie, novelist, 51; Sir John Shell, judge of the High Court of Northern Ireland, 60; Sir Alfred Sheppard, former chairman and chief executive, Wellcome Foundation, 78; Mr David Somerset, banker, 68; The Rev Dom Antony Sutch, Master, Downside School, 48; Miss Kathleen Turner, actress, 44; Mr Rory Underwood, rugby player, 35; Mr Edmund Vestey, former chairman, Blue Star Line, 66.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Blaise Pascal, mathematician and philosopher, 1623; Johann Wenzel Anton (Jan Václav Antonín) Stamitz, violinist and composer, baptised 1717; Jean-Marie Collot d'Herbois, French revolutionary, 1749;

Hughes-Felicité-Robert de Lamennais, church reformer, 1782; John Gibson, sculptor, 1790; Richard Monckton Milnes, first Baron Houghton, MP and poet, 1809; Ferdinand David, violinist and composer, 1810; Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Baptist minister, 1834; Sir Frank (Francis) Job Short, engraver and painter, 1857; Sir George Alexander (George Samson), actor-manager, 1858; Douglas, first Earl Haig, soldier, 1861; Sir Max Pemberton, writer and editor, 1863; Charles Coburn, actor, 1877; Bessie Wallis Warfield, Duchess of Windsor, 1896; Walter Reginald Hammond, cricketer, 1903; Sir Ernst Boris Chain, bacteriologist and pioneer of penicillin, 1906. Deaths: Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, court favourite, beheaded 1312; Matthew Merian the Elder, engraver and bookseller, 1650; Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist and explorer, 1820; Maximilian, Archduke of Austria and Emperor of Mexico, executed 1867; John Percy, metallurgist, 1889; Sir James Matthew Barrie, writer and playwright, 1937; Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, Soviet spies, executed 1953; Jean Arthur (Glady's Georgianna Greene), actress, 1991; Sir William Gerald Golding, novelist, 1993; Vivian Ellis, songwriter and composer, 1996. On this day: King Louis XI of France created a (private) Royal Mail service, 1464; an Act was passed founding the Metropolitan Police, 1829; the Earl of Rosse announced his discovery of spiral nebulae, 1850; the first Zeppelin dirigible airship, the *Deutschland*, was launched, 1910; a republic was proclaimed in Portugal, 1911; all German titles and names were renounced by the British Royal Family, who adopted the name Windsor, 1917; King George V conferred peerages on members of the Teck and Battenberg families, 1917; a

census was taken in Great Britain, 1921; Kuwait became independent, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Bruno-Boniface, St Deodatus or Die, Saints Gervase and Prothase, St Juliana Falconieri, St Odo of Cambrai and St Romuald.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Francis Pugh, "Modernism Modified: British design in the 1930s", 2.30pm.

LUNCHEONS

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce: Mr Peter Godsoe, Chairman and CEO of the Bank of Nova Scotia, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at Plasterers' Hall, London EC2. Mr Sandy Shandro, Vice-President of the Chamber, presided. The Hon Roy MacLaren, Canadian High Commissioner, was the speaker.

RECEPTIONS

HM Government: Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Professor Augusto Fantozi, Minister for Foreign Trade of the Italian Republic.

DINNERS

Police Service: Parliamentary Scheme Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord High Chancellor and President of the Police Service Parliamentary Scheme, was the host at the Annual Dinner held yesterday evening at the House of Lords, London SW1. Mr Alan Michael MP, Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr John Greenway MP, Shadow Minister of State at the Home Office, and Sir Neil Thorne,

Chairman of the scheme, were the speakers. Among those present were:

Lord Graham of Iddesley, Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner; Mr David Blakely, President of ACPQ; Mr Alan Belth MP; Mr Tom Cox MP; Mr Neil Gerrard MP; Mr Brian Jenkins MP; Mr Ffionnuala Murphy MP; Mrs Jacqui Lall MP; Mr Stephen McCabe MP; Mr John Davies, Director of ST; Mr Sandy Wainwright, Mr Barry Grisdale, Chief Executive, Bell Information Systems; Dr Mike Chivers, Mr Lawrence Pinner, Director, Electronic Data Systems; Mr Rob Wincey; Miss Melanie Roberts, Association, W. Gore and Associates.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Literature was held yesterday at 1 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2. Mr Michael Holroyd, Chairman, announced the election of the following new fellows:

Mr Sebastian Barker; Miss Elizabeth Berridge; Mr Kevin Crossley-Holland; Dr Siewe Davies; Mrs Helen Dunmore; Mr George MacDonald Fraser; Mr Brian Friel; Mr Philip Hensher; Professor Park Honan; Professor Gabriel Josipovici; Sir Lodovico Kennedy; Miss Julia O'Riordan; Mr Ben Okri; Mr Piers Fothergill; Mr Lawrence Salt; Mrs Jenny Uglow; Mr Kit Wright.

Mr D.J. Enright and Mr Harold Pinter were created Companions of Literature. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Secretary of the Society, presented the Royal Society of Literature Award under the W.H. Heinemann Bequest to Mr Graham Robb for *Victor Hugo and the Winifred Holtby Award to Miss Eden Robinson for *Truylines*.*

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.07pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1883. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. New London Synagogue: 0171-328 1024.

Compensation for compulsory purchase

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

19 JUNE 1998

Secretary of State for the Environment v Fletcher Estates (Harlescott Ltd); Secretary of State for the Environment v Newell and others (executors of Longmore deceased) Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Buxton) 11 June 1998

The local planning authority for a certificate under this section in respect of an interest in land, the local authority shall... issue... a certificate stating either of the following to be the opinion of the local planning authority regarding the grant of planning permission in respect of the land in question, if it were not proposed to be acquired by an authority possessing compulsory purchase powers, that is to say (a) that planning permission would have been granted for development of one or more classes specified in the certificate... and for any development for which the land is to be acquired, but would not have been granted for any other development; or (b) that planning permission would have been granted for any development for which the land is to be acquired, but would not have been granted for any other development.

The applicants had challenged the negative certificates in the High Court, and the judge had found (i) that the rel-

evant date on which the decision under section 17(4) had to be made was the date of the notice under section 23(2)(a); and (ii) that in making that decision, the words "if it were not proposed to be acquired" in section 17(4) meant that there should be discounted in valuing the land not only the section 23(2)(a) compulsory acquisition and the proposal underlying that acquisition as it stood at the relevant date, but, additionally, the facts and policies that resulted from the underlying scheme which culminated in the compulsory acquisition.

The Secretary of State contended (i) that the relevant date it which the decision under section 17(4) had to be made was the date of entry on the land; and (ii) that only the compulsory acquisition and the proposal underlying it as it stood on the date of the notice should be discounted in valuing the land. The first of those issues was concluded as a matter of authority by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Jelson v Minister of Housing and Local Government* [1970] QB 243, in which it had been held that under section 17(4) the planning authority must form an opinion as to what planning permission might reasonably have been expected to be granted at the date of the notice. The judge had correctly decided the first issue.

There was, however, no escape from the conclusion that as a matter of statutory construction, what had to be disregarded under section 17 was the proposal for acquisition and that alone, and the judge's decision on the second issue could not, therefore, be upheld.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
Enormity n.

ENORMITY and enormousness ought to mean the same, but somewhere in the etymological meanderings of the language, they took different courses.

Both originally simply meant anything out of (e-) the norm or standard (normis), but some time around the middle of the 19th century, enormity

restricted itself to cases of ethical abnormality, while enormousness became synonymous with vastness.

When, last month, the *Daily Telegraph* referred to

"the enormity of the task" of organising the Chelsea Flower Show, wickedness was probably not what it had in mind; though when the *Sunday Mercury* last week said that "South Africa may not have the infrastructure to cope with the enormity of the World Cup", it may have been inadvertently correct.

Who's a very happy racist?

Pauline Hanson thinks Asian immigration to Australia should be banned and Aboriginal land rights abolished. Australia thinks she's either a mad racist, or the best thing since apartheid. And now her party has won 10 seats in Queensland

In her denim jeans and braided blouses she looks like a line-dancer, the sort of nonsense woman who would breast the bar with the men at a country hootenanny and give as good as she gets. Her gritty, high-pitched voice that pinches her vowels makes her sound angry, ungrounded. She is Pauline Hanson, the woman who wants to bring back the White Australia policy, ban Asian immigrants and abolish Aboriginal land rights. And, since One Nation, the party that she founded just a year ago, took almost one quarter of the vote in a state election in Queensland last weekend, she has changed Australia's political landscape in a way that has rocked the nation.

Pauline Hanson's rise to political prominence has been astonishing. Three years ago, no one had heard of her outside Ipswich, a town in south-east Queensland where she owned a fish-and-chip shop. In 1996, she was elected to federal parliament as an independent MP after the conservative Liberal Party dropped her as a candidate because of her attacks on Aborigines. Then came her notorious maiden speech in which she talked of Australia being "swamped by Asians". It sparked the most passionate debate on race the country has seen. Many Australians, including the mainstream party leaders, hoped Pauline Hanson would go away. But she didn't. And now, after her Queensland juggernaut, they are pinching themselves and asking how she has come to pass and whether the country's reputation as a tolerant, multicultural society, the end of the "fair go", is cracking.

Already, there are signs that the Hanson phenomenon has made Australia's Asian neighbours wary. This week, a Taiwanese sugar company indicated that it would switch its proposed headquarters in Brisbane, the Queensland capital, to Sydney instead. Her rise has also cast a pall over the federal election that John Howard, the prime minister and Liberal Party leader, is expected to call later this year. This will be the biggest test yet of whether Mrs Hanson has captured a larger groundswell outside the borders of Queensland, or the "deep north" as the rest of Australia calls the country's most conservative state.

The last time Mrs Hanson showed her face in Sydney and Melbourne, the cities where almost 40 per cent of Australia's population and most of its non-white ethnic communities live, she was jeered, ostracised and had to be hustled away by police. But when she walks into the predominantly Anglo-Celtic country towns of Queensland, the farmers, shopkeepers and cattlemen and their wives and children rush to hug her and tell her what a great job she is doing by standing up for the "real Australia". Country men and older men, in particular, seem to love her. But not all men.

Much as Mrs Hanson claims to stand for old-fashioned virtues such as "family values", her own family life has been anything but a model. She has been divorced twice, and both former husbands have said publicly that they wish they had never met her. Her first husband has declined to use his real name in interviews because he wants his mother and son not to be associated with her. The second husband, Mark Hanson, a plumber on the Gold Coast of Queensland, told *New Idea*, an Australian magazine, this month: "She's embarrassed the Hanson name and the goodwill of the Hanson family... I don't think she knows what love is. She doesn't have a heart that can love. I wonder sometimes what I ever saw in her. I never thought a woman could be so overbearing. She didn't compromise on anything. It was her way or nothing."

The story of Pauline Hanson is the story of an Australia that has changed dramatically in the 44 years since she was born, of a country now divided more than ever between rich



Pauline Hanson's antipathy to Aborigines can only be explained as that of a racial bigot. Her other policies are devoid of political reality

and dynamic cities and poor and declining country towns. One such town is Ipswich, established by the British as a penal settlement in 1827. It rose to become an industrial centre, only to see thousands of jobs disappear over the past decade as its factories and workshops closed. Ipswich's most famous woman arrived there via Brisbane, where she was born Pauline Secombe during the boom years of the mid-1950s to a family of English and Irish immigrants. She left school at 15. Two years later, she married her first husband. He has told an Australian magazine that he married her because she was pregnant, and that their separation after the birth of their first son, and when Pauline was already pregnant with her second son, was acrimonious: "I went through living hell because of that woman."

Pauline later took a job as a barmaid at the Penthouse, a bar on the Gold Coast, where she met Mark Hanson. They married in 1980. Again, he says, when she was pregnant. "I'm an old-fashioned bloke with strong family values and my only option was to stick by her and marry her." There were two children - "the best thing to come out of that marriage," says Mark Hanson.

After their bitter divorce, Pauline moved to Ipswich, where she bought her fish-and-chip shop. It was there that she seems to have got her taste for politics, listening to customers griping about how the certainties of the old Australia were disappearing and how they, descendants of the communities that built the country, were becoming second-class citizens. This was the decade between the

early Eighties and Nineties, when Australia changed at a staggering pace. Financial deregulation opened the country to the chill winds of globalisation. Investment from Asia boomed. Downsizing became the norm. The High Court reversed two centuries of injustice by awarding Aborigines, for the first time, the right to claim native title over traditional lands, most of which sprawled across vast outback farms the size of European countries. Soon after the Liberal Party adopted Mrs Hanson as a candidate for the 1996 federal election, she wrote to a local newspaper attacking the "privileges" awarded to Aborigines. The party dropped her, but she won the formerly safe Labor seat encompassing Ipswich with a 23 per cent swing. Her victory speech to constituents was outrageous. She

vowed to work for "the white community, the immigrants, Italians, Greeks, whoever; it really doesn't matter - anyone apart from the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders". She demanded native title rights abolished, along with the public body that handles Australia's annual spending of \$41bn on housing, education and health for Aborigines, many of whom still live in third-world conditions.

Her antipathy to Aborigines can be explained only as that of a racial bigot. Her other policies, a mixture of xenophobia and economic nationalism, are just as crude and devoid of political reality. She is calling for high tariffs to protect Australian producers from foreign competition, and the establishment of a "People's Bank" to lend to farmers at just 2 per cent interest. Her most fanciful

proposal is to fund such a bank by printing more money, the classic recipe for hyper-inflation. This grab-bag is the work of the spin doctors driving her campaign, and heavily influenced by a brand of loony right-wing populism imported from America.

But it appealed in Queensland to the group most battered and bewildered by the pace of economic change. These are the farmers who once rode tall as Australia's "cattle kings", and who have been crushed by falling world prices, rising costs and a mountain of debt, many of them kicked off their land by banks and forced to move to towns where there are no jobs. In country Australia, there is widespread opposition to Aboriginal native title rights over outback farming lands. The Hanson rhetoric gave legitimacy to this.

One Nation, the Hanson party, won 10 seats in the Queensland election, most in rural areas. The big losers were the mainstream conservative coalition Liberal and National parties. They have been shaken by the rout in their own heartland. Queensland's opposition Labor Party is likely to form the state's new government after final counting this week.

Mrs Hanson says she is now ready to repeat her performance at the forthcoming federal election. She claims she has enough support across the rest of Australia to hold the balance of power in Canberra. A year ago, people would have laughed at her. They're not laughing now. Already, she has had an impact far beyond Ipswich.

When she first started sounding off about race in 1996, the Australian parliament unanimously passed a motion reaffirming the country's commitment to racial equality, a non-discriminatory immigration policy and Aboriginal reconciliation. Mrs Hanson stayed away and did not vote. Mr Howard has bungled his response to her from the beginning, choosing to ignore her rather than repudiate her. But he has also tried, clumsily, to accommodate her. In his first year as prime minister he announced a reduction in Australia's annual intake of immigrants from 96,000 to 80,000. His government has cut funding to Aboriginal welfare and to Mrs Hanson's other *bête noire*, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the public broadcaster. Like Mrs Hanson, Mr Howard publicly deplores "political correctness".

An opinion poll this week gave the Hanson party 11 per cent support nationally, compared with the 23 per cent it registered in the Queensland election. It is likely that she will pick up some rural constituencies in other states in the federal election, where disenchantment with the established parties is running high. She has no such support in the big cities, where most of the votes are located and where the media have uniformly moved to condemn her. But then, who would have predicted that Pauline Hanson would come so far so fast? "I still find it amazing that she's involved in politics," says ex-husband Mark Hanson. "It's a joke."

My grandmother's awfully big adventure

Aimee Liu knew there was an exotic romance in the family. But only when she visited China did she realise it was the stuff of fiction. By Kate Figes

Aimee Liu only met her grandmother once when she was nine years old. She remembers being present to a frail old lady in an armchair at her home in California and she didn't impress her much. "I remember her telling me that I was chubby and that was the beginning of anorexia for me," she recalls. "What I didn't understand was that she was thinking of her own children China never having enough to eat. Her chubby was a good thing." As an adult, her anorexia consoled, Liu became more and more fascinated by the grandmother she never knew, who taught English in the US and fell in love with an "adventurous and revolutionary Chinese student in her care. When he saved her life in the earthquake of 1906, they eloped to Wyoming - the only state in the American West where inter-racial marriage was legal.

Five years later, after racist riots and prejudice in California, here it was a crime for people of different races to touch in public, Liu's grandmother, Jennie, and grandfather went to China. There they spent the next 30 years. He worked as a political activist while she raised four children, endured yet more racial prejudice, fled from the Chinese, and survived major historical events such as Chiang Kai Shek's White Terror massacre in 1927 and the Japanese attack on Shanghai in 1932. Jennie

finally gave up and returned to California with her children in 1935. She never saw her husband again.

Liu knew very little about her father's childhood in Shanghai, but after a trip to China with her parents in 1979, and visits to some of her father's childhood homes, she began teasing information out of him while she recorded in notebooks. There were some photos and a letter from her grandfather 15 years after her grandmother had left him, asking her to take him back. Jennie's eldest daughter, Blossom, had also begun a memoir of her childhood in China, which helped Liu with details. But the gaps were so big that Liu decided to fictionalise her grandmother's story.

The result is *Cloud Mountain*, published here this week - a hugely entertaining, epic sweep through Chinese history and one very passionate love affair. The book has been sold to 12 countries, including China, since it was published in America last year. "I was jealous of my grandparents," says Liu, "for having had such an adventurous life. I wanted to get inside their heads and see what it must have felt like, for example, on their midnight escape from Peking, which my father remembers."

Liu clearly relishes and romanticises her family's exotic past. Her eyes light up when she tells me how clever her grandfather must have been, speaking seven languages, including Latin. She is small and pretty, wears a waistcoat decorated

with Chinese characters and bears an uncanny resemblance to her grandmother in one of the enlarged, mounted photographs that she is keen to show me. She has used tried-and-tested fictional devices to make her grandmother seem even braver, by portraying her as an admirable, Louise Bryant-type figure, who wrote articles for the American press and sent photographs of the Chinese poor with her dispatches.

Liu even attributes her anorexia in part to the culture clash of her parents' marriage, which in some ways echoes that of her grandparents. "My brother left to get married when I was 14 and my parents fought each other through me. I was split, with a love/hate relationship with my mother, who was this voluptuous American stereotype, and this affection for my father which I couldn't express. In some ways, I was making myself into a Chinese doll to please him."

Cloud Mountain is a Chinese *Reds* or *Doctor Zhivago* rather than another *Wild Swans* - riveting, romantic and readable. But it was Liu's sensitive understanding of the psychological ramifications of inter-racial relationships at that time that is most captivating and poignant. After 30 years of a passionate relationship, in which they had six children, four of whom survived, neither grandparent was able to shed their cultural heritage.

"In addition to the crossing of cultural worlds it was an interesting

period, as Western concepts of romantic love were changing with people like my grandmother wanting more of a partnership," Liu says. "My grandfather was also flipping between the old-style Chinese view of marriage and the more western attitude he so admired." Their passion must have been great to withstand racial prejudice. Liu says that much of the prejudice was class-based; the lower the class the more inter-racial marriages there were.

"A great many American-Irish women married Chinese men. They were barmaids and laundry girls and they were quite a perky group. There are pictures of them decked out in Chinese stuff. On the east coast it was frowned upon but not illegal, but on the west coast it was very much more threatening. Some periods were much worse than others. It was very bad in the 1870s and a lot of Chinese were killed. By the 1920s it had started to lighten. By World War Two, anti-Japanese sentiment overlapped and the Chinese would wear badges saying, 'I'm not Japanese'. But they were still Asian."

Liu now lives in Los Angeles with her husband, who is of Russian-Jewish descent. "It seems as if everyone in my son's school has inter-racial parents and it's a wonderful place for a child of mixed blood. But parts of the US are still very hostile, particularly in the rural South. If you go just 40 or 50 miles inland from LA to Riverside, the at-

mosphere is entirely different. I've heard of people who are drummed out of town with telephone threats and comments on the street. It's more of a black and white issue now, but the anti-Asian sentiment is still strong. There have been several cases recently of Asians killed in racially motivated murders."

After an extraordinary childhood in China, Jennie's children had to get used to America. Blossom, the eldest married a "military creep who forbade her to tell anyone she was Chinese" and died in penury in a trailer in Arizona. Loti was a very beautiful Eurasian starlet who played the sing-song girl in the film *The Good Earth* and married successive rich men. Herb, the "baby" had to join the army in the Second World War to become a US citizen and not be deported to China and spent five months in a German POW camp.

But it is Liu's father, Maurice, the eldest son, who has carried the Chinese torch of his ancestry. "He has got far more Chinese in his attitudes as he has got older. He is very passive-aggressive, which is a typical male Chinese character trait - trying to control and supervise everything without lifting a finger."

These are exceptional stories in their own right. "I'd love to write them up," says Liu, "but that book will have to wait until everyone's dead."

Cloud Mountain, by Aimee Liu, Headline, £16.99.



Aimee Liu was jealous of her grandparents. Kalpesh Lathigra

This week the Rachel Nickell murder inquiry was finally closed. But the case had another casualty: the policewoman who tried to entrap Colin Stagg has left the force, traumatised by the job. By Darius Sanai

Life as an undercover cop: you're always one slip away from death or a breakdown

ALAN is a car thief. He is a drug user, a football hooligan, a thieving barman and a chauffeur. A white male in his thirties, he looks like Lemmy out of Motörhead after an evening out with Johnnie Walker. He spent several months last year plotting and drinking with a group of known criminals in a Northern city; at one stage he was asked to help organise a serious assault.

Alan is also a police constable, and his bosses know everything he's been doing. He is an undercover officer with a regional police force. Alan - not his real name - has been in the force for more than a decade, and he's proud of what he does, blending in with criminals, sometimes for months on end, to help "catch the big boys". He says he wouldn't do anything else.

The mystique of the undercover cop, has recently been tarnished in a series of high-profile cases.

Two black Scotland Yard undercover policemen are suing the West Midlands force, claiming their counterparts botched an operation in Birmingham in which they were gunned down and disabled for life.

"Lizzie James", the detective who pretended to woo Colin Stagg, once the prime suspect in the 1992 murder of young mother Rachel Nickell, by pretending to share his deranged sexual fantasies, is in the news again. Last week it was reported that she had quit the force due to stress and is preparing to sue the Metropolitan Police.

Since the case was thrown out of the High Court in 1994 (the judge labelled the police methods "deception of the grossest kind"), James is reported to have suffered psychological problems, gained weight, and lost interest in sex.

There has been no official comment on either of the cases. Some officers who have been involved in unrelated undercover operations are privately dismissive, saying the young officer has spotted a way of making money out of her former employers.

Undercover work spans a huge range of operations, from the risk-free to the potentially lethal. In an operation in Southampton earlier this year a travel agent had simply to walk into a travel agent and buy an air ticket to Majorca while mentioning he was an antique dealer. Right now, across the country, drug dealers, money counterfeits,

immigrant smugglers and hitmen are talking to people who they believe are fellow-criminals - policemen who risk death if one wrong move gives them away.

Officially there are no full-time undercover policemen; investigation units ask for volunteers or call in officers attached to other units whenever they need them. SO10, Scotland Yard's undercover unit, has only a few dozen officers working for it at any one time.

"The requirements vary as much as the type of work itself," says one source familiar with undercover work. "One force might need a native Kurdish speaker to blend in with some smugglers. Someone else might need someone who had trained as a BMW mechanic, someone else might need a jeweller or a jazz saxophonist or a chemist or a pizza chef. Or someone with a Geordie accent and an intimate knowledge of rave music who can drive a motorbike."

"There is no such thing as an 'undercover policeman'; each job needs someone different." Sometimes those in charge have someone in mind, or on file; if not, the word gets sent out to different forces. "Some people do one undercover job that lasts two days in 20 years on the force; others are doing them more or less full-time," says the source.

It is those involved in the high-risk, long-term operations, that require the assumption of a false identity - so-called "level one" assignments, who receive the most intensive training.

Paul Britton, the controversial forensic psychologist who briefed Lizzie James, has also been involved in numerous other operations across the country. Britton, who described the Stagg case in his memoirs published last year, refuses to comment on James. But, he says, volunteers for undercover operations go through a rigorous selection mechanism.

"There are certain underlying requirements. You need someone intelligent and with social insight, able to react quickly in a given situation and adapt different qualities."

"In real-life, most of them are self-confident and gregarious, though the way they behave is inevitably affected by the nature of the operations they have done before. An ostensibly larger-than-life, outgoing man could be destroyed by the



After Rachel Nickell's murder, a woman police officer posed as someone interested in violent sex in an attempt to make Colin Stagg (above, right) admit to the killing

job, a small, meek woman could do very well."

Before going on dangerous jobs, the undercovers are subjected to real-life simulations to test how they would react in typical situations. The undercover source says inexperienced and macho policemen usually don't survive this stage. "It's very carefully run. You just don't take risks."

Cover-stories and alibis are painstakingly constructed. If an undercover officer has to tell his cronies that he was in the Royal

Greenjackets, "either he actually will have been in the Greenjackets, or we'll make damn sure he'll be able to talk about units and events like he was there. He'll be able to describe the food and the colour of the carpets."

Normally, detectives won't risk using someone who has to spin such a risky yarn, but circumstances might dictate there's only one candidate suitable for the job.

The problem area is personal life. A typical undercover assignment might involve a policeman working

as a driver and mechanic for a crime ring. Inevitably, he'll be asked about whether he has a wife and children. Informed sources told us about their mechanisms for dealing with these questions convincingly; we have chosen not to reveal them.

The stresses of the job can be chronic. Officers can live under assumed identities for months, socialising with people they are employed to arrest, aware that one false move can give them away. "We usually use our real Christian names," says Alan, "because of the



possibility of recognition.

"If a friend recognises you in the street while you're with an undercover suspect, he'll come up to you and say, 'Hi Alan.' It would blow your cover if you used an assumed first name." Most officers who work undercover frequently tell their friends to walk past them whenever they see them in the street, even if they appear to be alone.

One policeman tells of the time a £3 purchase gave him away: while pretending to be a wealthy arms-dealer, he bought a pair of rubber stick-on soles for the Gucci loafers he had been provided with. The next day, he met his suspect as planned in the Dorchester; after that meeting he never heard from him again.

Criminals are also increasingly aware of undercover penetration. Organised rings are known to watch police stations and keep a note of the registration numbers of unmarked cars, though most police operations are more sophisticated: one experienced undercover officer has been driving a £50,000 convertible sports car for nine months as part of his identity.

Some undercover policemen, such as Lizzie James, are one-offs, the right people for the right job. But there isn't too much demand for beautiful young women who can pretend to have bizarre sex fantasies, and many of the men and women on repeat long-term operations have a maverick, almost bohemian side.

"It's not like being in the force," says Alan. "It gives you freedom and I love it." Many, though, end up being loners even if they didn't start out that way; pretending to be a crack dealer for nine months does little for a marriage.

It may sound glamorous, but it could also be lethal. Britton says supervising officers are - or should be - aware of a number of different types of stress. "The officer is all alone on the job. It's not too much consolation to know that if someone pulls a gun on him his back-up will come running over from three fields away."

"There is a constant fear, which officers tend not to recognise, as it manifests itself as arousal. It's the fear of discovery and also of letting the side down. Long-term investigations take a lot of money and manpower, all of that is riding on your shoulders and it tends to funnel down."

Often the undercover officer is on an adrenaline high: it's those in charge who order an investigation to be aborted because it's become too risky, above the objections of the officer involved.

Investigators say constant support is essential, to give the undercover officer a chance to release everything he knows, to be able to explain what is happening in a detailed and structured way. This is far more recognised now than it was even ten years ago.

Says Britton: "If you're under sustained pressure (without the chance of release), you may have a bit of a wobble at first, then it seems like everything is fine as a coping mechanism kicks in. But without the support of colleagues, your system can just crash, suddenly, with no warning."

Training officers and police psychologists stress the importance of constant support and debriefing, with some saying that a couple of weeks' rest between big jobs should be mandatory.

Jennifer Brown, a forensic psychologist at the University of Surrey and a specialist on stress in the police force, says that in some respects undercover officers lead less troubled lives than "ordinary" policemen. "The structures to support undercover work are in place and they are very thorough," she says.

"The most stressed people in the police force are traffic officers. They're confronted with constant low-level trauma (bodies in car accidents, fights) and they're expected just to cope with it." Policemen, she adds, can have an even worse time, as the macho culture discourages their more natural tendency to cope with their emotions by articulating them.

Despite the controversial methods used at Paul Britton's behest - describing copcat fantasies involving group sex and simulated rape - Lizzie James had plenty of support while she was assuming her new identity as a perverted murderer - something she had volunteered to do.

But the case failed through no fault of her own, and the question that needs to be answered is whether she was adequately supported by her colleagues and superiors, or whether they could have saved her.

Become well armed for your heraldic hobby

BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY 2: WILLIAM HUNT ON HERALDRY

PORTCULLIS PURSUivant of Arms (otherwise known as William Hunt) is the 39th holder of his office, one of the heralds in the College of Arms, and as a junior officer of the Royal Household is entitled to an annual stipend of £13.95 paid from the civil list. "The last increase was given by James I - and subsequently cut by William IV," he adds without bitterness.

The study of heraldry does not require expensive and weighty tomes and strengthened library shelves. Portcullis recommends a "starter for all children, and adults who like reading children's books" - Iain Moncreiffe and Don Pattinger's simple *Heraldry* (The Promotional Print Co. £2.99). "It is the perfect introduction to heraldry, which is a sys-

tem which began as an easy, visual means of recognising who was on the medieval tournament field.

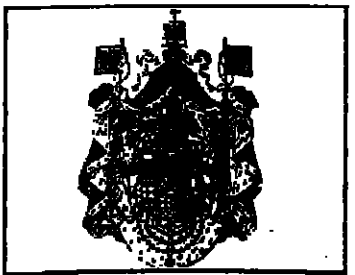
"When you want to get your teeth into the subject, go to *Boutell's Heraldry* revised by JP Brooke-Little (Frederick Warne). Very readable and not stodgy in any way."

A similar "useful handbook" is Arthur Charles Fox Davies' *A Complete Guide To Heraldry* (Gramercy Books, £19.95). This scores over Boutell in its chapter on flags, but is generally not as reliable, as Boutell is continually revised.

Both explain heraldry's basic principles, its development throughout the Middle Ages and will educate the reader to thorough knowledge of the subject.

Less useful for reference, but

much more scholarly, is *The Oxford Guide To Heraldry* by T Woodcock and JM Robins (OUP £15). "This is more a series of theses on heraldry than an accessible dictionary, but retains a lightness of touch which informs without deadening." But the most sumptuous item among these recommendations is H Bedingfield and Peter Gwynn-Jones' *Heraldry* (Magna Books). This is a coffee table book, richly illustrated with current grants of arms and other illuminated manuscripts. Although out of print, it is currently being revised by Peter Gwynn-Jones, the



present Garter King of Arms, and should be available again shortly.

Portcullis also suggested two recently released pictorial introductions - Andrew Stewart Jamieson's *Coats of Arms* (Pitkin, £2.50), and

Michel Pastoureau's *Heraldry: Its Origins and Meanings* (Thames and Hudson, £6.95). Pastoureau is vice-president of the French Heraldry Society and offers a useful abbreviated guide to heraldry around the world and follows its development up to the present day.

Anybody with a collection of the above will have a fine guide to the what, why, when, where of heraldry. For those who want more, Portcullis warns that the books get heavier.

Business was quick to recognise the cachet that a coat of arms could bring and, ever since 1439 when a

grant was made to the Worshipful Company of Drapers, this has been an important branch of English Heraldry. The definitive work on the subject is still G Briggs' *Civic and Corporate Heraldry*.

The shelf-busters continue with the great tomes of Burke's *General Armory* (1844) and Fairbank's *Book Of The Families' Crests of Great Britain and Ireland* (Fourth Edition 1905). These record all the arms-bearing families of Great Britain up to their respective publication dates and are available in facsimile from the specialist bookshop, Heraldry Today (for address see below).

Portcullis warns that both these works contain many arms borne without authority. That authority

comes, of course, from the College of Arms, whose own history appears in two volumes: *The College Of Arms Monograph*, produced by the London Survey Committee in 1963, a bibliography of all previous heralds with some reference to the college, and *Heralds Of England* by Sir Anthony Wagner (HMSO 1967), a history of the College and Office of Arms.

Both are out of print, but it should be possible to obtain them, and any other books previously mentioned in this article, through Heraldry Today, Parliament Piece, Ramsbury, Marlborough SN8 2QH. Tel: 01672 5620617.

Portcullis Pursuivant was talking to Simon Linnell.

Did the earth move for you?

Environmental abuse has been blamed for rising sea levels but new evidence suggests it may be a natural process. By Dan Falk

DIRE PREDICTIONS about global warming causing sea levels to rise have overshadowed the much longer-term changes to climate and sea levels that have occurred over millions of years. Yet scientists believe these large-scale events can shed light on how the oceans, atmosphere and the earth's geology interact in a way that is still only partially understood. New research indicates there is a much closer interaction between the atmosphere, oceans and terra firma than previously realised.

Ocean levels, for example, are known to rise and fall by immense amounts over geological time scales. During the heyday of the dinosaurs – about 100 million years ago – sea levels were between 100 and 200 metres (300 to 600ft) higher than today. Fifty million years later, when the first mammals appeared on the scene, sea levels were at least 100m lower than the present day.

For many years, scientists believed these long-term fluctuations in the earth's sea levels were the result of plate tectonics – the gradual motion of the continents across the earth's crust. More specifically, the culprit was thought to be "sea-floor spreading", when molten rock wells up from the earth's mantle (the layer below the crust), forcing the tectonic plates apart. Sea-floor spreading is most pronounced in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, where the rising Mid-Atlantic Ridge is pushing Europe and Africa away from the Americas.

A new study, however, suggests that a very different process may be at work. According to Jerry Mitrovica and Jon Mound at the University of Toronto, the spinning of the earth on its axis may be the root cause. That spinning, it seems, causes the earth's crust to "wobble" around the rotation axis much like a jelly spinning on a plate.

There are different ways to picture this motion, depending on your perspective. As seen from space, the earth's axis remains fixed, while the crust moves with respect to the axis. To an observer on the ground, however, it looks like the earth's axis is moving: this motion, therefore, is often called "polar wander." The result, of course, is the same either way.

The earth's crust deforms, which in turn cause dramatic changes in sea levels. Mitrovica and Mound used a computer program to model the wobbling earth, and looked at the effect on the earth's crust and on ocean levels – what they call an "earth response calculation". What they found was a remarkable correspondence between the sea levels predicted by their model and the known changes in sea levels that are known to have occurred from studying the geological record.

"When Jon and I saw that, we were really shocked," Mitrovica says. "It looked so much like the records of sea level changes." At the very least, he says, the old textbook



Storms lash Porthleven, West Cornwall, in January this year. Ideas about changing sea levels are still completely open to debate

Simon Burt/Agf

explanation may have to be re-written. "It certainly weakens, very significantly, the argument that all of these sea level fluctuations are due to the spreading rate [of tectonic plates]. They could very well have nothing to do with the spreading rate, and have everything to do with the earth's rotation."

Of course, there are many other processes that can affect sea levels. Ice ages, for example, can cause the oceans to rise and fall, but typically these changes occur over tens of thousands of years – much shorter than the periods studied by Mitrovica and Mound.

While the Canadian team was investigating these million-year fluctuations, an American geophysicist

was studying much shorter time scales. Toshiro Tanimoto of the University of California at Santa Barbara was looking at tiny oscillations that seem to cause the entire planet to expand and shrink over a period of about five minutes. These vibrations – known as "fundamental mode oscillations" – are incredibly small, with the surface of the earth moving a mere two to three millionths of a centimetre (about one millionth of an inch).

In fact, the phenomenon is so subtle that there are only a few days each year when it can be measured; the rest of the time, the oscillations are drowned out by earthquakes and other seismic activity. But sensitive instruments in-

stalled at seismographic centres around the world clearly show this five-minute period of vibration.

Tanimoto believes this oscillation is caused by turbulence in the earth's atmosphere. He modelled the effect of such winds hitting the planet on a global scale, and found it could trigger oscillations of just the right size. Of course, other mechanisms have been put forward – everything from small earthquakes to the effects of rain or even the impact of billions of human beings walking on the earth's surface. But none of these have the right frequency and the right intensity to set the entire planet in motion. "Atmosphere is a very strong candidate," Tanimoto says.

A key question is whether these interactions are affecting the earth's climate over the kinds of time scales that human beings have to worry about. These studies, which seem to deal with periods too long or too short to be of concern, are – at the very least – suggestive. "I'm seeing the interaction between atmosphere and solid earth," Tanimoto says of his work. "We're starting to think about these interactions... it's going to be a fascinating field."

Mitrovica, who works with time periods in the millions of years, believes it's crucial to understand long-term interactions – especially in an age of near-panic over possible global warming. While sea levels are thought to be on the rise –

by between two and three millimetres (about one-tenth of an inch) per year – the cause is not yet clear. "People are going around saying that the sea-level rise that we're seeing must be related to melting events over Antarctica and Greenland," Mitrovica says.

"That's over a human time scale. But they have no clue [as to the] kinds of processes that may be naturally leading to those kinds of changes in sea levels. They don't know whether it's really human intervention, or whether we're just going to see it reverse in 15 years. The only way you can unravel that is to get a better handle on all of the processes that are affecting sea level."

As an example of long-term geological activity affecting climate, Mitrovica cites the creation of the Tibetan Plateau, formed millions of years ago as tectonic plates ploughed into each other in central Asia. Those mountains, in turn, disrupted atmospheric circulation, which must have had an enormous impact on climate. While similar events may be shaping today's climate, the processes remain poorly understood. "In terms of the long-term history of the planet, connections between sea level changes, tectonic events, and climate are completely open," Mitrovica says.

Dan Falk is a science journalist based in Toronto

TECHNOQUEST

Q Did Pangaea break up into Gondwana and Laurasia, or did Gondwana and Laurasia join to form Pangaea?
Pangaea, Gondwana and Laurasia are all names given to ancient continents formed and destroyed according to the theory of plate tectonics. It is thought Pangaea broke up to form Gondwana and Laurasia.

Q Why are women's voices higher than men's?
The larynx, or voice box, in the throat has a mucous membrane that forms two pairs of folds: an upper pair (the "false" vocal cords) and a lower pair (the "true" vocal cords). The false vocal cords hold the breath against pressure from beneath – say, when you strain to lift a heavy object. They do not produce sound.

The true vocal cords do produce sound. Under the folds are bands of elastic ligaments stretched between pieces of rigid cartilage like the strings on a guitar, with muscles attached to both the cartilage and the true vocal cords. When the muscles contract, they pull the elastic ligaments tight, stretching the vocal cords out into the air passage; this narrows the space between them. Air directed against the vocal cords makes them vibrate, creating sound waves in the air in the throat, nose and mouth. The greater the air pressure, the louder the sound.

Pitch is controlled by the tension of the true vocal cords. If they are pulled taut they vibrate more rapidly, creating a higher-pitched sound. Male sex hormones mean the vocal cords are usually thicker and longer in men than women; they therefore vibrate more slowly, giving men a generally lower range of pitch than women.

Q Do all woods float?
Any wood (in fact, any object) with a density greater than the density of water will sink. Tallow wood, Queensland Red Ironwood and certain types of ebony will all sink.

Q Why do you get lines of flint in chalk cliffs?
Flints are made of an insoluble sort of silica (silicon dioxide in chemical terms), which is also sometimes called chert. Flint and chert commonly grow as lumps and nodules in limestones, and chalk is just a rather fine-grained, pure sort of limestone. The groundwaters present in buried rocks have a small amount of silica dissolved in them, which gets precipitated out as very fine crystals that amass in the lumps. The same groundwaters tend to dissolve holes in the chalk. Together, these processes mean that as fast as a bit of chalk is dissolved out, flint is deposited to fill the gap.

Q Why are my cat's eyes so bright at night?
Nocturnal animals such as cats – and fishes that live in deep water – have a shiny backing to the retina, a layer of cells called the tapetum. Their eyes seem to glow if a light shines into them. The tapetum reflects light back onto the receptors, making vision more effective in low light conditions. In hoofed mammals like deer the tapetum contains glistening fibres of connective tissue. In cats, it contains shiny crystals of guanine.

How to avoid a critical mess

THE TRUTH ABOUT...

CRITICALITY

IN THE NUCLEAR business criticality is everything. It determines when a chain reaction begins and can make all the difference between the controlled release of energy in a nuclear reactor and the uncontrolled explosion of an A-bomb.

The importance of criticality was outlined this week in a report by Britain's nuclear inspectors into the failings at the Dounreay nuclear facility in Scotland. "The hazard of criticality is not being afforded the respect it deserves," they said.

The key to building a nuclear reactor and an atomic bomb is making sure that criticality (or "critical mass") is not reached until you want it to. In the third case of a reprocessing facility for nuclear waste, criticality is something to be avoided at all costs.

A chain reaction begins when an

atom of a radioactive material like uranium-235 splits and throws out two neutrons. If there is another U-235 atom near, one of those neutrons is sufficient to split that atom too, releasing another two neutrons and the chain reaction has begun.

There is also energy released, and it is this combination of a chain reaction and energy release that is so destructive in an atom bomb, and convenient (as long as it's kept controlled) in a fission reactor.

The important thing for controlling criticality is making sure that those neutron sources are kept apart, and that the amount of neutrons being released does not reach levels which could accidentally start a chain reaction. About 10 kilograms of 90 per cent pure U-235 suffices to make an atomic bomb. But if you get the same sort of mass in a larger space while there are lots



Criticality was not respected at Dounreay

Glyn Griffiths

of radioactive sources around – which can happen during fuel reprocessing – then you could conceivably reach criticality while not intending to. That is what the nuclear inspectors at Dounreay were worried about.

What are the consequences of accidental criticality? One such event happened on June 17 last year at the

Russian nuclear facility Arzamas-16. Dr Aleksandr Zakharov, a 42-year-old senior research worker with years of experience, was assembling the pieces of an experiment to reach criticality using enriched U-235. He was behind thick glass, using remote control systems to put together a sphere of material; the idea was to approach criticality very carefully,

then get out of the room before putting the final piece in place using a robot. The result would not be a mushroom cloud, but a self-sustaining reaction, generating heat and neutrons.

But the penultimate piece fell wrongly. It set off the chain reaction ahead of time, before Dr Zakharov could get out of the control room.

Dr Zakharov saw a blue flash as the mass went critical. The room and the control room were bathed in neutron radiation. The system didn't explode – it was too small for that – but Dr Zakharov had already received a fatal radiation dose. After unsuccessfully trying to stop the reaction he exited the facility and closed the hatch, reported the incident to management and lost consciousness. He died in hospital 36 hours later.

It took six days to get a robot to break apart the assembly and stop the reaction: the neutron radiation levels fell by a factor of 10 million.

In that context, one can see why nuclear inspectors emphasise the respect one should pay to criticality.

CHARLES ARTHUR

THEORETICALLY

THE OPERATORS of the oldest operating nuclear power plant in the United States have been fined \$55,000 (\$34,300) for breaking safety regulations that could have led to a reactor meltdown in a power cut.

The 619-megawatt plant at Oyster Creek, New Jersey, started generating electricity in 1969, and lies about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Atlantic City.

The fine was imposed by US nuclear investigators because the company did not check that at least three of five "relief" valves would stop the

reactor coolant from draining away if there was a power loss; only two valves would have worked.

"ECO-WARRIORS" have torn up genetically modified (GM) crops at a trial site on a farm in Edinburgh, taking the total of sites attacked to 21 since January. The crops under test were oilseed rape which was engineered to be resistant to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. More attacks are likely: a total of 16 companies have trials of GM plants under way but under European legislation they

have to state publicly where the sites are – including a map reference.

CHILDREN AS young as three can do simple sums irrespective of their social background. Scientists at the University of Chicago who studied a group of toddlers from disadvantaged backgrounds found that they could add and subtract even though their language skills were not well developed. Although the children could not answer verbal maths questions, they were able to work out problems when the teachers use objects instead of verbal cues. The researchers also found that children as young as three can do more abstract calculations. The children were shown two black discs, which were then removed. Shown cards with different numbers of discs, they correctly chose a card that had a picture of two discs on it. Four-year-olds begin to develop even more abstract number concepts. Upon hearing two drum beats – but no verbal instructions – most children were able to pick out a card with two objects on it.

FURTHER DELAYS have hit the International Space Station. The first piece of the station was supposed to have been launched this month but this has been postponed to 20 November because of delays in completing the Russian-made module. Nasa is now working on an American version in case the Russian module is still not ready later this year. Completion of the station, which will weigh nearly 500 tons, is now scheduled for early in 2004, about 10 years behind the original plans first proposed in 1984.

Stills from a life in moving pictures

Wim Wenders made his name with films like 'Paris, Texas' and 'Wings of Desire'. Now he fancies himself as a photographer as well. Interview by Rachel Barnes



London is a happening city," says Wim Wenders after spending two weeks there. "I used to love a lot then. I used to love the atmosphere and the rock and roll. I feel it like that again now. It all went dead in the Eighties but that excitement has come back. I love the music - The Verve are brilliant."

Wenders has been a leading representative of German cinema since the Seventies, when he made the film *Summer in the City* with music by The Kinks. We met last week not in London but in the medieval town of Cahors in the South of France, where he is currently staging an exhibition of his work at the Printemps de Cahors Photography Festival.

The town is a beautiful, if rather incongruous setting for this annual gathering of avant-garde photographers. The splendour of the 14th-century buildings is a little at odds with the very latest in determinedly experimental photography.

The festival's director, the glamorous Madame Perrin, loves a star to top the bill and for the past two years the principal stars have both been actors-turned-photographers. And it has to be said that Dennis Hopper's retrospective last year was interesting. This year the spotlight is on Hopper's friend, Wenders, another director-turned-photographer. (Hopper starred in Wenders' 1977 movie *The American Friend*.)

So this is how I come to be talking to Wim Wenders quite early one morning among the olive trees at Madame Perrin's chateau. Sporting shades and looking quite a youthful 53, Wenders is a little hunched over. "No one seemed to want to go to bed last

night, so I'm exhausted." He is thoughtful and careful in his speech. "I was given my first camera when I was six and had a darkroom when I was 12. So I thought about making photographs long before the idea of making movies ever occurred to me," he says. "I always loved to take photographs in black and white. Perhaps that was still with me when I decided to shoot the first part of *Wings of Desire*, my favourite of my movies, in black and white."

That magical, much-acclaimed film was shot in Berlin at the time the wall came down. The movie changes from black and white to colour when one of the angels falls in love with a circus acrobat, forsaking his immortal status to join her on earth.

Painting is also important to Wenders, as it continues to be to his friend Hopper. Wenders desperately wanted to be a painter, studying in Paris as a young man to achieve his ambition. "I still remember the terrible disappointment when I realised I wasn't going to make it," he says. "For a while afterwards I had no direction."

His description of himself in a dejected, demoralised state, wandering around the streets of Paris, conjures up images of the anxiety and alienation experienced by some of his film characters.

"It was during this very depressed period in my life, I started going to see movies at the Parisian Cinématique, where it only cost one franc to get in. After the first movie was over, I would hide in the toilets, which meant I could see the next film free. I was horribly poor at that time. Often I saw five movies a day - at first to pass the time - but gradually I started to become quite obsessed. Maybe it was an obsession to take me out of this colossal dis-



'Dennis Hopper and Nicolas Ray, Barstow, Mojave Desert'

Wim Wenders

appointment about failing as a painter. But anyway, that's when the obsession started and it has never gone away."

During this time, Wenders started to jot down what he thought about the films he was watching daily in the Cinématique. Then for the next few years he worked reviewing films. "I'm certain that being a critic helped me come to terms with the whole problem of reacting to criticism. I tend not to get too upset about unfavourable reviews because I am aware of how subjective the whole thing is."

Many of Wenders' movies have

been admired for their intense evocation of mood and atmosphere. Paris, Texas especially bringing him international acclaim in the early Eighties. He believes that his awareness of light - undoubtedly an essential element for the creation of ambience in his movies, - was stimulated by taking photographs from an early age.

"Music is the other element that can create ambience in movies. It has been important in all my work," says Wenders, who has just finished making a documentary film about his friend Ry Cooder, whose music featured in *Paris, Texas*.

Wenders is clearly interested in being taken seriously as a photographer in a way quite distinct from his successful career as movie maker. But the photographs in his Cahors show, entitled "Une fois", are often reminiscent of the carefully-constructed images of his movies. They are all set in different locations at different times - Bali in 1980, California in 1983, Paris in 1994 - making a sort of road movie in stills.

Wenders has recently been working on a film about an alcoholic. He thinks this is why he is intrigued by the work of the young British pho-

tographer Richard Billingham, who made a big impact at the Royal Academy's "Sensations" exhibition last autumn.

Billingham, who also has a show at Cahors, focuses much of his work on the life of his dad Ray, who is a chronic alcoholic. With a mixture of detachment and affection, Billingham leaves little to the imagination about the life of a man who has been completely dependent on alcohol for most of his life.

"What is amazing about Billingham's work is how he is able to give an insider's picture of his father's life," Wenders comments. "He is not

on the outside looking in. He is right there with his family and knows everything about such a life. It is curiously moving."

Wenders professes to be amazed by his own success. "I sometimes look back to bad times in the past, like when I was in Paris as a young student and felt that I had completely failed in what I had set out to be - a painter."

"I have been very lucky to find another direction for my creativity that has worked. But who knows? I would not like to do anything as an amateur now - but maybe one day I will go back to painting."

A pared-down Pinter and a dose of demagoguery

FOR THEIR first visit to England the Tunnellgroed Theatre Group from Amsterdam are showing their range with two wildly contrasting one-act plays.

Harold Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes* has a bare, almost clinical, set. *Buff*, by the group's artistic director, Gerardjan Rijnders, has a set of detailed clutter, overloading with a working kitchen, books and knick-knacks suggesting the domesticity of artistic chaos.

Changing sets between plays was clearly impractical so two venues are used. The audience is bussed out of Plymouth to a myste-

rious destination - which turns out to be the Drama Hall of Plymouth University - for *Ashes to Ashes*, and returned to the Theatre Royal's studio theatre, The Drum, for the second half of the bill.

There are other contrasts. The Pinter play has spare, taut, enigmatic dialogue, and the audience listens carefully to pick up clues. The Dutch play, on the other hand, is a verbose and ranting monologue that leaves nothing to the imagination.

Ashes to Ashes is verbal fencing between a married couple, examining dreams, defending territory. At

THEATRE

ASHES TO ASHES
THE DRUM
PLYMOUTH

the end there is a suggestion of memories of the Holocaust.

At the back of the main set another appears, consisting of a square of lawn, bare except for a watering can and a cricket ball. This back set is never used, and we are left to put our own interpretation on its existence.

The dialogue is pared down be-

yond the usual Pinter, as though the playwright is saying "make of it what you will".

Ashes to Ashes is precisely performed (in Dutch) by Lineke Rijman and Pierre Bokma with a running script (in English) at the back of the stage - tricky to do with Pinter pauses, but technically perfect here.

Buff introduces a jaded critic expounding on a state of the theatre which has no relation to real life. "A five-hour uncult Chekhov!" he moans. "There is real life on every street corner. My mother was real. I never see her on stage."

The critic rants on, seemingly oblivious to his son who, after frantic masturbation, rushes the room for heroin, finds and injects the stuff and later commits incest with his mother before strangling her.

Buff has two targets and only hits the outer rings. The critic's attack on the theatre has the substance of an argument, but realism on stage would be too boring to contemplate. Of course theatre is artificial, and a good job too.

The other butt is the intellectual who can overlook the real life of his beighted family while pleading for realism on the stage. But the irony

here is crude and obvious, as the critic ignores his wife's squeals for help, steps over her dead body and uses his shaking son as a prop to illustrate his polemic.

Buff is only sustained by the outrage and wit of the ranter as he slashes wildly at the acting profession, subsidised theatre, drama schools, and pretentious plays.

But his argument is hardly current. "Anyone for tennis?" plays disappeared decades ago (though there is still *The Mousetrap*, and Agatha Christie plays crop up in every repertory season in all their snobbery). Has Rijnders not no-

ticed that ours is the age of the musical?

Titus Muzelaar excels at the monologue (in English). Lineke Rijman takes a battering as the mother, showing a neat appreciation of comedy (while she is being raped she is still flicking dust with a rubber-gloved hand). Fred Goessen's desperation in the son is graphic, but played for laughs. He can perform a ballet with his bare bum.

At The Drum, Plymouth to 20 June (01752-267222); Riverside Studios, London, 23-27 June (0181-237 1111). ALLEN SADDLER

Blood simple

THEATRE

BLEEDING ARTS
JERMYN STREET THEATRE
LONDON

UP-AND-COMING topical comedy revues are dubbed "the new *That Was the Week That Was*" with the same regularity as promising young footballers are called "the new Gazza". In both cases, it is invariably the kiss of death.

So it was with no little grumbling that I went to the Jermyrn Street Theatre in central London last week to see *Bleeding Arts*, a topical revue that boasted rather hopefully that it was "fixing its bite in the soft underbelly of the arts".

The biggest shock of the evening was that it wasn't irredeemably awful. The second biggest shock was that it actually raised quite a few laughs. While there were no budding John Birds or Willy Rushtons, the troupe of Abigail Roberts, Chris Stanton, Mark Unwin and James Campbell proved accomplished and versatile performers.

As with any sketch show, the material was hit-and-miss. The take-off of *The Late Review* was a little too recherché and up its own behind even for aficionados of late-night BBC2. Nevertheless, the troupe notched up many more palpable hits in Michael Eriera's smartly-directed show. They scored particularly well with comic juxtapositions - the more ludicrous, the better. Early on, an exquisitely refined

Medici asked Leonardo da Vinci for "a work to uplift the spirit", to which the artist, a gorbliney Cockney, replied: "Right, this and bums again then, is it?"

A certain section of the audience - oh, alright then, me - especially warmed to a wicked send-up of a loud-mouthed critic interrupting the show by bel-lowing ostentatiously into his mobile phone from the front row. There was also a neat re-working of Peter Cook's Second World War sketch with a Peter Mandelson figure in the role of the fighter pilot being invited to make a futile gesture to raise the tone of the Government. "The codename for this operation is Domebusters," he is told.

Unlike some of their more illustrious forebears, *Bleeding Arts* are never going to bring down the Government. But anything that gives us a cheap laugh at the expense of Peter Mandelson is alright by me.

Bleeding Arts will be at the Edinburgh Festival from 7 to 31 Aug

JAMES RAMPTON

Basset hounds the pretenders

THEATRE

THE BASSET TABLE
TRICYCLE THEATRE
LONDON

THE TERMINOLOGY of the Venetian card game of Basset trips off the tongue about as readily as the Ten Commandments do these days. In Wild Iris's superbly arch revival of Susanna Centlivre's feisty 1705 comedy, produced in association with Bristol Old Vic, director Polly Irvin compounds our sense of exclusion from this arcane pursuit by showing a session in which the players sit huddled over their cards, their backs to the audience, giving out outcries of "I mase double" and "This trante and leva makes some amends".

It's the one point where Irvin faces the action inward and the only time we see the eponymous table close-up (it is glimpsed reflected in a tilted backstage mirror at the start). The deliberate inscrutability and guardedness creates a defining image of Centlivre's appraisal of relations between the sexes: that deception and stratagem are the rule.

For the rest of the play, the actors address their every word and gesture in an extravagant and stylised manner as possible, generating a sense of period parody. Lady Reveller, a widow who has developed a wild passion for Basset, fills her uncle Sir Richard Plaimman's house with creatures whose posturing prevents them from forming the

attachments they hanker after. Lord Worthing, priggish despoiler of the game, worships Lady Reveller; his louché friend Sir James Courtly flirts both with her and her pious cousin Lady Lucy; Sir Richard's daughter, Valeria, is ordered to marry a sea-captain but desires a topish ensign.

This tangled state of affairs is resolved by Sir James's wiles, which veer between harmless fun and disturbing force; at one point, he switches from playing the rake to trick Lady Reveller into Worthing's arms.

There is no attempt to play a single line with real feeling. Irvin surrounds everything with invisible quotemarks, undercuts the most adamant statement with a batty visual interjection. Blasts of rock music accompany baroque entrances and exits and finally drown out the mingled trills of harpsichord. Harriet Thorpe's Lady Reveller sweeps imperiously round Atlanta Duffy's warped set. It's the topsy-turvy embodiment of a gambling clique chasing their fortunes while their compatriots sleep. Among a generally strong



cast, mention must be made of Mike Hayley as the barking seadog Firebrand, Sara Powell's airy, philosophy-crazed Valeria and Patti Love's simpering Mrs Sago, a coquette who ruins her husband with her reckless gaming. Though Sago's fortune is restored and

marital relations mended, the good news is delivered with an irony that retains faith with Centlivre's bemused vision: plain dealing between the sexes was never a safe bet. Booking 0171-328 1000. To 11 July. DOMINIC CAVENTISHE

WORLD'S ONLY ONE

TALK OF THE CITY

BY STEPHEN POLIAKOFF

Europe is hurtling towards war. Yet at the BBC... the singing and dancing is about to begin.

A DELICIOUS MIX OF SHOWBIZ BRIO, PERIOD DETAIL AND MYSTERY

GRIPPING AND ENTERTAINING

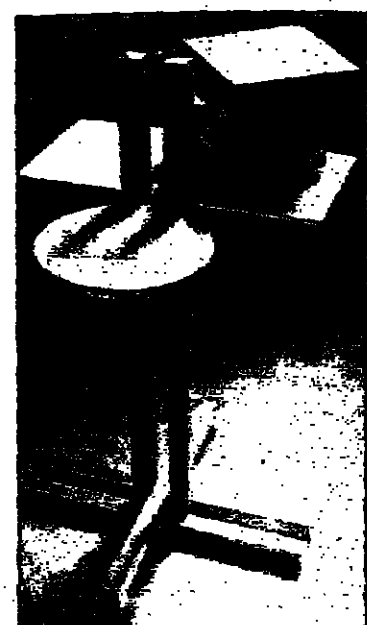
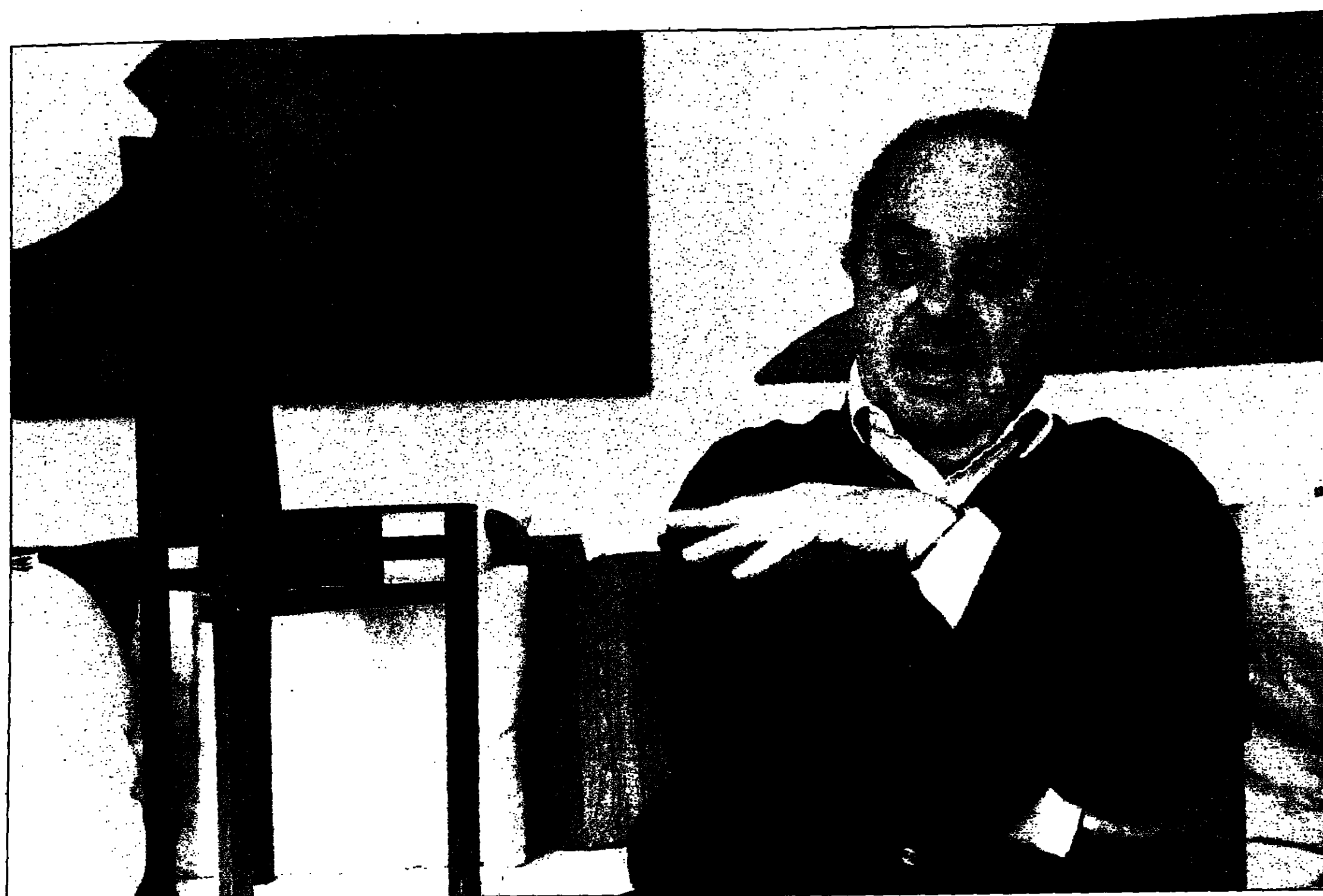
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Top: scale model of a writing desk; above: coffee table made for Aram Design's 23rd birthday; below left: some of Landels's dust jacket designs.
Kalpesh Lalhagra

From Lux Flakes to Marcel Proust

Willie Landels is best known for his furniture. And his risotto. And his magazines. And it's his 70th birthday this week. By Matthew Sturgis

WILLIE LANDELS is a master risotto-maker and he brings that rare understanding of how to combine a few simple ingredients

into something harmonious, unexpected and celestial to the broader world of design. And for Landels the design world is broad. He designs his own clothes, other people's furniture, illustrated books for Harper Collins and the menu cards at Annabel's; he paints beautiful abstracts and constructs elegant collages. He perhaps touched the public consciousness most forcefully in the early Eighties, as the first editor of the newly-amalgamated Harpers & Queen, establishing the reputation of that magazine and introducing his readers to the talents of such figures as Lloyd Grossman, Min Hogg and Sue Crewe.

All his work has the same distinctive blend of purity and playfulness. Or it is created by a tension between form and function, as in his elegant Godwin-esque design for a luxurious Oriental daybed.

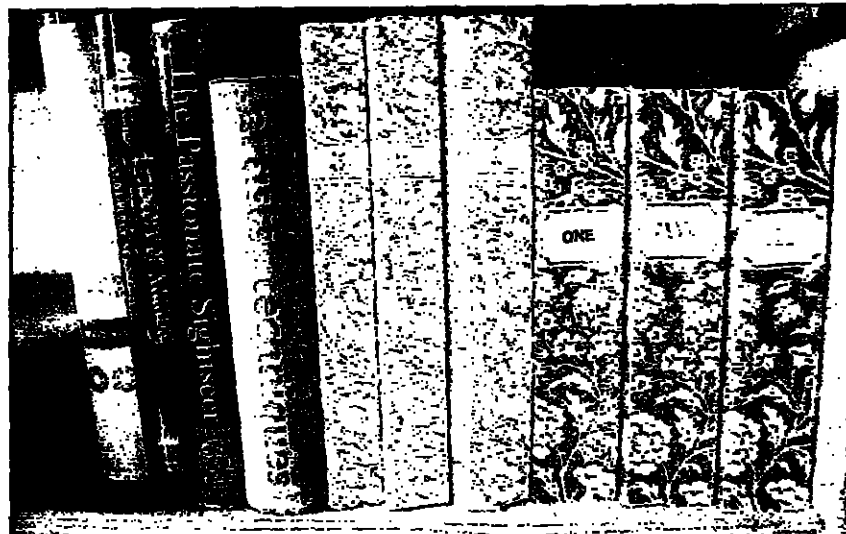
"Good design always has an element of wit in it," he suggests. And everything that Landels does is enlivened by a Puckish, gentle wit - beneath which there is a sense of order and restraint.

Landels was brought up in Italy on the shores of Lake Como and his sensibility was forged in a country with an ancient vernacular tradition and an even stronger belief in the virtues and possibilities of the new. "It was all around me," Landels explains. "I loved the ancient Romanesque architecture but also the new architects. Next door to us lived Terragni - who designed the Casa del Fascio at Como. Being around such things got me interested."

Because of World War II, Landels' education was brief. "I went to art school when I was 16. But because I had never been to school before, I treated the place rather like a gentleman's club. I would look in each day at midday before heading out to lunch." Not surprisingly, his stay there was short. "After that I went to La Scuola to paint scenery and it was there that I learnt to paint. One had to paint every day - often copying complex designs, usually working on a large scale. It was a good discipline." It taught him, too, how to achieve striking effects with limited means.

Landels came to England at the beginning of the Fifties and through a family connection he got a job in the London office of the advertising agency, J. Walter Thompson. He rose to become an art director - working with such campaigns as Lux Flakes, Campari and After Eight. "In many ways it was a good time to be in advertising - but inevitably there were frustrations and limitations." From the design perspective he considers advertising a stern school where clarity and communication are essential. "It was at JWT that I learnt about typography and how to use it as an integral part of design."

In 1965, Landels moved into magazine journalism, first at Jocelyn Stevens's Queen, then at Harper's Bazaar and finally following his own suggestion to the directors of Harper's about the possibility of acquiring their young rival - at Harper's & Queen, where he was the first editor.



His sojourn there was a Golden Age, and he encouraged a whole generation of young writers and would-be editors, photographers, designers and artists. He also recognised - as the over-literary English do not always - that magazines are essentially a visual medium - words may be important but style is everything.

He carried his own style into every aspect of the magazine. Tales are still told of his extravagant gestures and impish wit when he had raised the circulation to over 100,000 the proprietors asked him how he thought he might improve the magazine

further. He suggested getting rid of all the advertising. They failed to see either the potential or the humour of the suggestion.

London, for Landels, was in many ways very liberating. "In England I found much more freedom of expression and behaviour than in Italy. I was also exposed to 'feet and inches' which is infinitely easier than the metric system: the units are divisible by two, three, four and six - and there is a humanity about it. One knows that it was based on the human body. The metric system is very cold and intellectual."

But Landels was surprised to discover

how limited the design world was in London, and how parochial. Nevertheless, there was a scent of change in the air. For Landels one of the key moments in the development of British design-awareness was opening of Zeve Aram's furniture shop in the King's Road in 1964.

"It was great," Landels recalls, "suddenly we saw for the first time the best of contemporary Italian design and also the remnants of all the earlier greats - Mies van der Rohe, Corbusier, the Bauhaus."

Although more exclusive it was, Landels says, more important than Conran's Habitat revolution. Conran provided a cut-price, debased version of continental style; Aram offered the real thing. "When I think of Habitat," Landels confesses, "I always think of strings of onions hanging up in Hampstead kitchens."

Landels' first pieces of furniture were designed for himself and for his friends: they were made on his own workbench. He developed a technique of working with "one-by-one" lengths of wood ("a kind of Meccano," he calls it) to build up elegant structures for chairs and sofas.

New materials, however, have always exercised the imagination of designers. At the beginning of the Sixties, Landels became interested in the possibilities of inexpensive foam-rubber. When Italian furniture manufacturer Zanotta was brought round to supper and saw some of Landels' experiments he promptly commissioned a sofa from him. Landels' design cleverly

combined modernism and comfort - a simple straight-sided affair made of PVC-covered foam-rubber cushions set on a wooden frame. It was the model of chic and, importantly, also the model of economy.

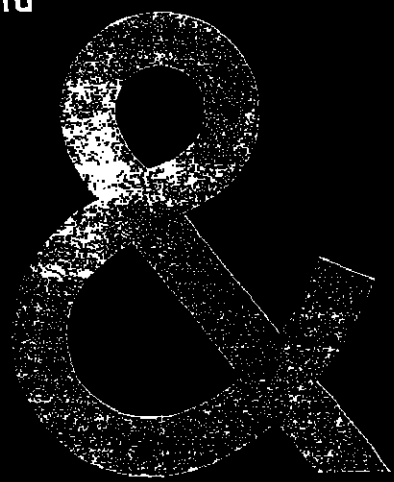
"I wanted," Landels recalls, "to design something that would be easy and inexpensive to manufacture, but would also be comfortable to sit on. When designing furniture you must always think of the interests of the human body." The sofa was rather jokingly christened the Throw-away. Ironically, it has become a classic. It is still produced by Zanotta and marketed around the world, although inevitably it has become as expensive as other sofas.

Landels considers that its enduring success is due to its simplicity and adaptability. It is very easy to manufacture and can be made as anything from a two-seater upwards. At the Vogue offices in Milan they have two ten-seaters facing each other across the reception area - one covered in baby pink the other in baby blue.

The model in Landels' own drawing room is a restrained white-covered affair. He hasn't been able to restrain himself from throwing oriental cushions on to it, but they are purely for show. He discards them when he wishes to recline. "It's much more comfortable without them," he exclaimed as I sat down. It was very comfortable indeed. Pleasing to the eye, kind to the human body and sustaining to the soul - the Throw-away seemed the perfect complement to the perfect risotto waiting for us in the kitchen.

Willie Landels' furniture is available from Aram Design, 3 Keen Street, London WC2 (0171 240 3933), his paintings from Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, London W1 (0171 436 4899).

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THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 1: THE SPINGRIP OUTSOLE
DESIGNED BY ANTHONY EVANS



IF YOU notice Alan Shearer spinning away with ease from defenders hell-bent on leaving him nose-down in French turf during the World Cup, then thank not Glenn Hoddle's training ground tactics, but a would-be inventor called Anthony Evans. It is a measure of football's increasingly high profile that Evans' Spingrip Outsole is among 202 Millennium Products chosen to represent creativity and innovation in British industry, and a measure of its success that the football manufacturers Umbro have signed it up for worldwide exclusive usage.

Shearer, of course, is Umbro's major player. The England striker will be hoping that the Spingrip sole will protect him from the type of potentially crippling ligament injury that sidelined him for so long after his £15m move to Newcastle United. The Spingrip's unique characteristic is its curved arrangement of specially profiled cleats, designed to reduce what are known in the trade as "lower limb rotational injuries". In other words, it allows a player to twist and turn faster while still keeping his grip and, crucially, without jarring his leg. The studs are arranged around the ball and heel

with a flat inner surface to prevent clogging mud and grass, and convex outer edges to prevent tripping. It sounds complex, but it works.

Former company doctor Evans says the concept of the Spingrip came from the realisation that while injuries in professional and amateur football were on the increase, "boot soles hadn't changed for 100 years". Not strictly true. Adidas took four years, thousands of prototypes and stringent laboratory testing before launching their truly revolutionary Traxion outsole in 1996. It's a major factor behind the success of their leading boots, the Predator and the Accelerator, which they claim are "the best - and the sole - shoes for sport" (pardon the pun).

But if Alan Shearer stays on his feet and injury-free to lead England to World Cup glory, the Spingrip Outsole will have more than earned its place among its pioneering contemporaries. Umbro's catchphrase - "the heart and soul of football" - has never been more relevant.

OLIVIA BLAIR

So far, over 200 Millennium Products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them.



He's gonna sit right down...

...and write himself a novel. But where?
Douglas Kennedy was swept off his feet by a Herman Miller Aeron chair

I bought my first desk in 1977. I was living in Dublin, running a co-operative theatre company (well, it was the mid-Seventies) - which meant that I was also constantly, congenitally broke. My average weekly wage was around £30, which was mid-echelon *La Bohème* money in those days, considering that my rent in the unheated two-up, two-down cottage I shared with a pleasantly eccentric English watercolourist was a whopping £6 a week. I didn't run a car, I didn't spend much on clothes, I didn't even own a television (though I finally broke down and rented a little black-and-white portable, for 75p a week, in early 1978).

But I urgently required a desk - and the watercolourist had a friend who renovated old furniture, and found me a very simple oak desk for £35. The price hurt at the time - but I needed somewhere to work at night, and instantly fell for this heavily varnished Victorian schoolhouse relic. It was a basic, functional piece of furniture - and one to which I became deeply attached. For it was at this desk that, in 1979, I started working on what became my first performed play. It was at this desk that, between 1987 and 1992, I wrote three travel books. And it was at this desk that I also hammered out my first novel, *The Dead Heart*, published in 1994.

In short, this £35 desk became an intrinsic part of my working life. And I became superstitiously bound to it. So much so that, when my wife Grace surprised me on New Year's Day 1995 (aka my 40th birthday) with a stunningly stylish modern Italian desk (from The Conran Shop, natch), I was initially worried. After all, I'd had such professional good fortune at my old desk - surely I'd be tempting providence by retiring it after 17 years' service?

I quickly set aside neurotic superstition - especially as my new desk was such a masterpiece of contemporary design, not to mention three times the size of my antiquated Victorian item. But suddenly I was presented with another wrenching aesthetic dilemma: what was the right chair for this hyper-chic desk?

When I first acquired my 35-quid desk, I was so strapped for cash that I bought an old bentwood chair at a

local Dublin junk shop for £3, sanded it down, and varnished it myself. When the desk and I moved to London in 1988, the old bentwood was replaced by a red slatted folding chair, picked up at Habitat on the King's Road for £15.

But, after seven years, that chair had begun to disintegrate under the weight of my increasingly hefty frame. And anyway, it looked absurd beneath the Conran Shop smoothie Grace had bought me - a bit like putting one of those beaded backrests (so beloved of minicab drivers) into the front seat of some understated sports coupé.

There was a problem, however: I was writing a new novel on spec and was hardly flush. Two hundred quid was the most I could spend on a desk chair - and nothing was to be had in those emporiums of contemporary design (Heals, Conran, Purves) for under £500.

So I committed a taste crime - and purchased an absurd "executive-style chair" at Ryman's. It was very big (when I sat down in it, the top of the seat-back touched my head). It was very ersatz (moulded plastic arms, a black imitation leather - ie naugahyde - seat). An *objet d'art* it was not - more like something you'd find in the office of a used Skoda dealer in Bromley. But it was very cushy - even if my clothes began to adhere to its vinyl seat during hot weather. And it did see me through my new novel, *The Big Picture*.

Being cheap, however, meant that it was not destined for the long haul - and by the time I was beginning work on Novel Number Three, my naugahyde executive special was suffering a nervous breakdown. The seat refused to tilt backwards, it would only execute a three-quarters pirouette, and one of the moulded plastic arms had started to disengage from the frame. It was time to move on to another chair - and as my financial circumstances had improved, I could finally flash the cash and buy something really swish.

"There is only one office chair," a designer friend informed me sternly. "It's the Herman Miller Aeron Chair. It costs £800 - and worth every penny."

Eight hundred pounds! For a chair! I immediately envisaged my

late maternal grandfather (who grew up poor in a grimy turn-of-the-century Manhattan tenement) lecturing me from the great beyond about profligacy and excess ("I fought the Kravts in the First World War so you could spend 800 big ones on a chair?").

My designer friend noted my doubt and said: "You sit on a chair for eight hours a day, don't you?"

I nodded. "Well then, stop acting like some impoverished Puritan and take a look at the bloody Aeron!"

So I did just that, making an expedition to the Herman Miller showroom on the Tottenham Court Road. As someone with a strong resistance to all copywriter cant, I was initially dubious about the brochure I picked up at reception - especially as it kicked off with a sort of mission statement, written in technocrat-speak: "How we developed a chair that isn't just another chair."

"Designers Don Chadwick and Bill Stumpf began their design process with a clean slate, with no assumptions about form or material, but with some strong convictions about what a chair ought to do for a person."

"Ergonomically, it ought to do more than just sit there. It should actively intercede for the health of the person who sits in it longer than he or she should."

"Anthropometrically, it ought to be more inclusive than its predecessors."

"Environmentally, it ought to be benign."

Oh, please! I thought when reading this sales pitch. It's a goddamn chair, not some lifestyle choice. But then a salesman escorted me over to see the Aeron... and I was immediately intrigued.

To begin with, it was so pleasing to the eye: a simple, elegant piece of high-tech design - the centrepiece of which was a seat that was not made out of standard foam, but from a woven material - which I later read in a magazine article was called Pellicle. And for those of you who don't possess a doctorate in textiles, Pellicle turned out to be "an innovative combination of Hytrel elastomeric polyester, Lycra and fibres," a material "that was specially developed for the chair".

The idea behind this material was to "create a 'topographically neutral'



The Herman Miller Aeron is top of the bottoms, the ultimate designer chair, reckons Douglas Kennedy

Kalpesh Lathigra

surface" (the brochure continued relentlessly). In other words, the seat would conform to whatever fleshy or anorexic body collapsed into it.

And indeed, when I had my first test-sit, I found myself thinking: this is dangerously comfortable. And the fact that it was a woven material meant that my shirt didn't stick

to the chair-back. And the adjustable lumbar pad on the rear of the seat did wonders for my appalling slouch. And the forward tilt mechanism combined with the inward pivoting armrests was perfect for long stints at my laptop.

Naturally, I suffered extended pangs of disappointment when I

discovered that the Aeron was not capable of massaging my prostate, and also failed to increase my height by two inches. But within minutes of lowering myself into it, I knew that this was a damn good chair.

Twelve months later, I still think that. Because I'm still sitting in it. Right now.

The Aeron Chair is available at Herman Miller Ltd, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-388 7331), price £800.

Douglas Kennedy won the 1998 WH Smith's Thumping Good Read Award for *The Big Picture*. His new book, *The Job*, is published by Little, Brown in August (£12.99).

DESIGN ICONS

NONIE NIESEWAND



SALVADOR DALÍ once took a turn-of-the-century chair and set about dismantling it. He changed its leather seat to chocolate. One of its legs stood in a glass of beer. Another stood upon a Louis XV door knob, making the chair so unstable that it toppled over when anyone approached. He called it the atmospheric chair. "And what does that mean, eh?" he asked. Well you could say it was Salvador Dalí making an exhibition of himself yet again. Or you could reflect upon the fact that since the human anatomy doesn't change, there really is little to be done with chairs except play around with them. The Egyptians perfected the chair millennia ago, only they called it a throne. It wasn't until Wassily Kandinsky cycling to Bauhaus hit upon the notion that bike handlebars could lend something to design that the cantilevered

chair was designed to kick away chair legs.

Italian maestro of design Mario Bellini says that designing a chair is harder than designing a computer. He has designed both. I am sitting on his "Cab" chair for Cassina, its skeletal frame covered tautly in leather with zips running saucily up its legs, even as I work on an Olivetti "Creative" computer and he's convinced me. A lot of energy has been poured into their detail, but the chair is workmanlike as well as elegant. I like its simplicity. Chairs designed for the contract market (as they call office chairs) are often aggressively styled. If I had to choose an office chair, it would be from the



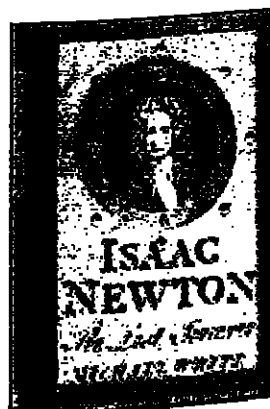
Vitra collection. You can see some of the best-sellers at the Vitra shop in Bruton Street, London W1.

In 1991 the owner of Vitra, Rolf Fehlbaum, set up a chair museum designed by Frank Gehry in Basel near the factory. The collection begins with Thonet's bentwood café chair, the kind you find in bistros with a U-bend wooden back and a cane seat, to mark the point where chairs rolled off the factory assembly line, and includes such futuristic designs as the Wim Wenders stool (right) designed by Philippe Starck for Wenders' movie *Until the End of the World* and Ply Chair (middle) by Jasper Morrison, the master of minimalism. Every year he not only

commissions a new chair from a designer - Alberto Meda is his latest prodigy (left) - but he adds to the museum collection. When I asked him what chair he'd take with him if there was a fire in his museum (Vitra's factory burnt down in the Eighties) he unhesitatingly pointed to a Charles Eames plywood chair made for a child.

Vitra make the entire collection of Eames chairs and you will be able to see some of them from 15 September in the exhibition "The Work of Charles and Ray Eames" at the Design Museum in London, sponsored by Gucci. The creative director Tom Ford, who is passionate about modern architecture and design, acknowledges the importance of the Eames. Many of today's new designs are drawn from things that Charles and Ray did in the Forties and Fifties.

It has got to be red in bed



IN MARCH 1668 the young Isaac Newton spent his first stipend as a Fellow of Trinity, Cambridge, on redecorating his college rooms.

"New cushions, chairs, bedspreads and curtains were almost all dominated by crimson. He surrounded himself with the colour, and it was a fixation that lasted into his old age. In a list of possessions drawn up after his death, there are recorded "a crimson mohair bed complete with case curtains of crimson Harra-teen" and, in the dining room,

DESIGN LINES

"a crimson settee". Other listed items included crimson drapes and valances in the bedroom, a crimson easy chair, and six crimson cushions in the back parlour."

Why Newton was so struck with the colour we will never know, but the obsession went back a long way. As a teenager in 1669 he had recorded in

the Morgan notebook some three dozen recipes for dyes, mostly for shades of red. An example is "Take some of the clearest blood of a sheep, put it into a bladder and with a needle prick holes in the bottom of it. Then hang it up to dry in the sun and dissolve it in alum water as you have need".

Extract from Isaac Newton: *the last sorcerer* by Michael White, published next month by Fourth Estate (£8.99)

I YEARN FOR....

...AN ANISH KAPOOR SCULPTURE, SAYS DANNY HALL, JEWELLERY DESIGNER

"I WENT straight for the luxury item - one of Anish Kapoor's alabaster sculptures - those huge megalithic stone carvings. The one I particularly liked was a vast free-standing dome cut out of alabaster, so thin at the edge that you could see the light through it. I want to have it at the bottom of my garden so that whenever I look out of my french windows, I can see it standing there."

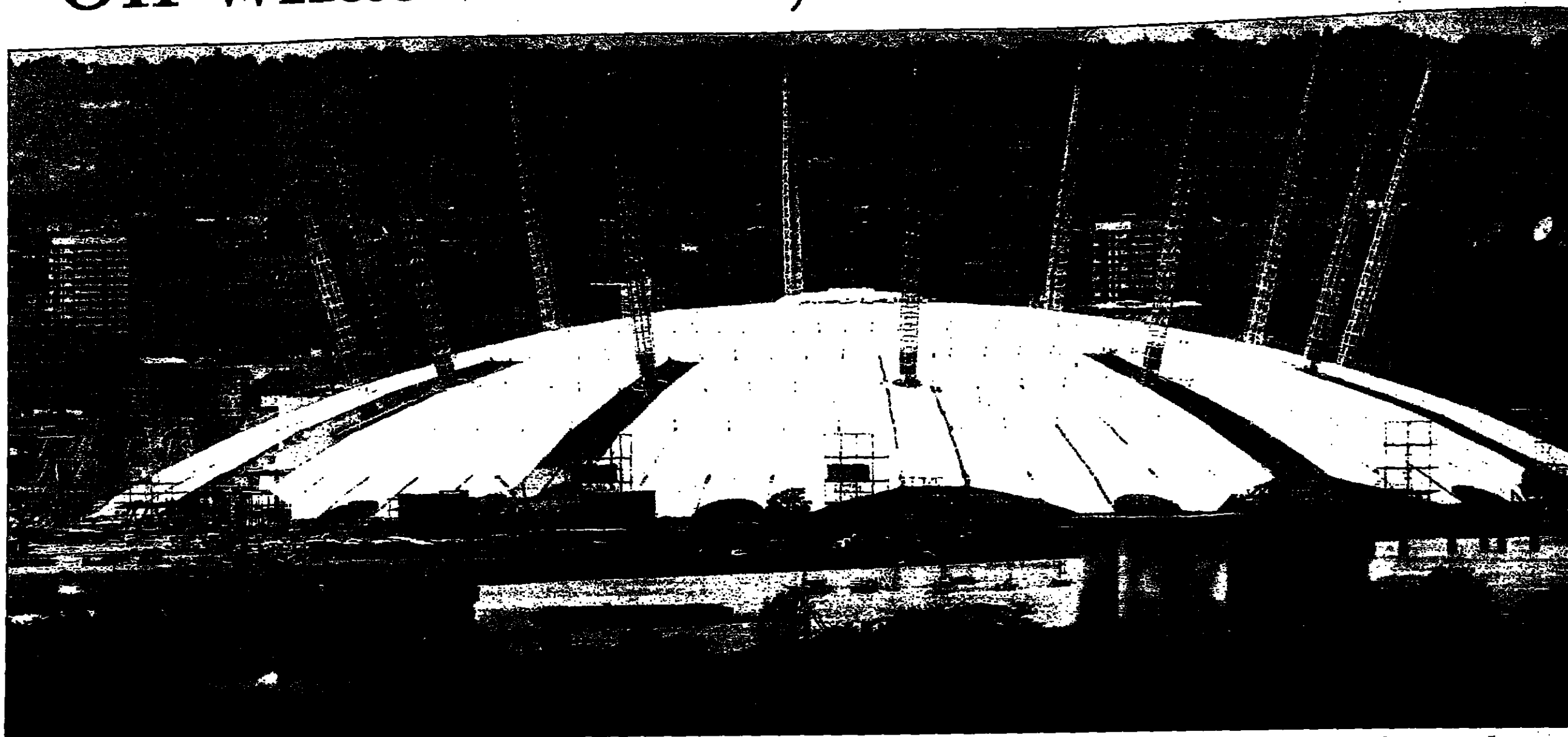
I first saw these sculptures at the Lisson Gallery

about six months ago. There was something so beautiful about them. It's not often that you go to an opening of an exhibition and stare at the work rather than stand chatting. I thought about them for a long time afterwards."

Danny Hall's jewellery can be bought from her shops at 200 Westbourne Grove, London W11, and 54 Fulham Road, London SW3. Right: sculpture by Anish Kapoor



Oh what a circus, oh what a show



An architect has been selected as the ringmaster in charge of The Millennium Experience. By Nonie Niesewand



Top: Like a gigantic big top, The Millennium Dome nears completion. Above: Mark Fisher bristles at any suggestion of a Billy Smart-style circus

EXACTLY ONE year ago, Tony Blair gave the go-ahead for the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. After 12 months of bickering, backbiting – and building – it is taking shape. As big as Trafalgar Square, and as tall as Nelson's Column the dome looks remarkably like a circus tent. No surprise then, that the New Millennium Experience will employ young jugglers, acrobats, contortionists and trapeze artists to star in the show inside when the dome throws its flaps open to the public.

The show's creative director is the 52-year-old architect Mark Fisher, best known for his sets for bands such as U2 and The Rolling Stones. To celebrate the anniversary, the New Millennium Experience is looking for 16-year-olds who want to run away and join its circus. Gymnasts, trampoline enthusiasts, dancers, rock climbers and divers, are being asked to apply. Fisher says he's looking for young people with the "stamina and that athleticism you see in raves". Auditions will be held all over the country this summer to find 180 youngsters to take a certified course in circus skills at Circus Space, a training school in east London. Toss aside all notions of Billy Smart: "No sawdust because animals are definitely out," Fisher explains. "No silly clowns in funny trousers."

Run by Mick Jagger's one-time personal dance trainer, Micha Bergese, who will choreograph the dome show, Circus Space is housed inside a gargantuan former factory for electricity transformers. Inside cavernous brick halls bathed in light, workshops are in progress to find role models for the new recruits. Contortionists tie themselves in knots and acrobats tumble head over heels. Trapeze artists with calloused hands swoosh across the high wires to the catcher swinging at the other end – and miss.

Does this at all unsettle Fisher, who stole the show from showbiz impresario Cameron Macintosh when he landed the deal for the dome? Not a bit. As luminous rings, batons, hoops and bunches of flowers fly through the air, he explains how he wants the performers to tell a simple story with a beginning, a middle and an end, "the usual, love, hate, conflict and dilemmas" that are universal. "The language is the language of emotion." The plot, however, he is keeping secret until the opening night.

Before performances, his troupe will be stewards, gently ushering the crowds six times a day into the 15,000-seat amphitheatre in the centre dome for the 20-minute show – though Fisher expects to play to

about 5,000. Powerful coloured lights will change mood in time to music by rock star Peter Gabriel, who, like the architect, has a lot of experience in playing to big crowds. Tonight in London, Janet Jackson will step out of a video screen which opens like a book to jump into a vigorous dance techno show Fisher designed, and in the autumn Simply Red will take over the Lyceum in a theatrical show also conceived by the architect.

A graduate from the Architectural Association in London 25 years ago, Fisher moved swiftly into show business, reviving an eighteenth century architectural tradition, when Inigo Jones and Nash designed theatre.

"In Britain, modern architects became involved in the seedy world of office blocks, while the entertainment business ran showbiz. They took away all the fun from architects. That's why I moved back." The intervening centuries have had a bad effect on the craft of architecture generally, he says. "Architects just think of form, the building, not the narrative that accompanies it. That's one of the things that the exhibition stands within the dome have highlighted. Architects have to think like exhibition designers of the story they are telling. Film-makers

understand this narrative action but architects today don't see space in a temporal way."

When he presented the narrative ideas for the show to the New Millennium Experience panel, Simon Jenkins exclaimed: "It's like a Greek tragedy." Peter Mandelson and Tony Blair, who became nervous about the show coming from a rock 'n' roll background when their cool Britannia branding went cold, were relieved to discover it was entertaining. Comments about the dome turning into the circus must be ringing in their ears, however. It was only February this year when Michael Grade of the New Millennium Experience panel categorically denied that the dome was becoming a circus. As the warm-up act for Blair's announcement of some of the contents, Grade was asked about creative director Stephen Bayley's disappearing act from the project. "There is no need for a ringmaster. The dome is not a circus," was the reply.

But the very mention of the word "circus" triggered a Pavlovian response in Mark Fisher, who had just been appointed. Rave reviews for the Cirque Du Soleil, magic realists of the big top, at the Albert Hall at the time also helped his decision to get a training programme for live per-

formers under way. At least we know the show will be spectacular, and that it won't be dwarfed by the immensity of the space inside the dome.

It is so big that it managed to swallow one of the outside ventilation shafts from the Blackwall Tunnel that was sitting on the site. This incredible bulk, designed in the Sixties by Terry Farrell to bring clean air into the tunnel, couldn't be moved so they just Tefloned over it to make it a feature of the dome. Mark Fisher is determined not to let it dwarf his show. "The scale is difficult to grasp. Think of a city to get a sense of the dome's true scale. Shops and exhibits scaled like street fronts, walkways like avenues, open theatre like a piazza."

Eleven design teams who have zones in the twenty acres around the outer rim of the doughnut-like dome will be watching Fisher like a hawk to see what he does with acoustics and lights. The spiritual zone which Eva Jiricna conceives as meditative space for reflection and contemplation would be ruined by a rock spectacular and high wire acts going on around. But there's an exhibit on female circumcision is to be one of its attractions may well make many of us glad of the chance to go to the circus.

Perfect use of line and length

Everyone is totally bowled over by the new high-tech stand at Lord's. By Nonie Niesewand

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is

the very problem you want to discuss. That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

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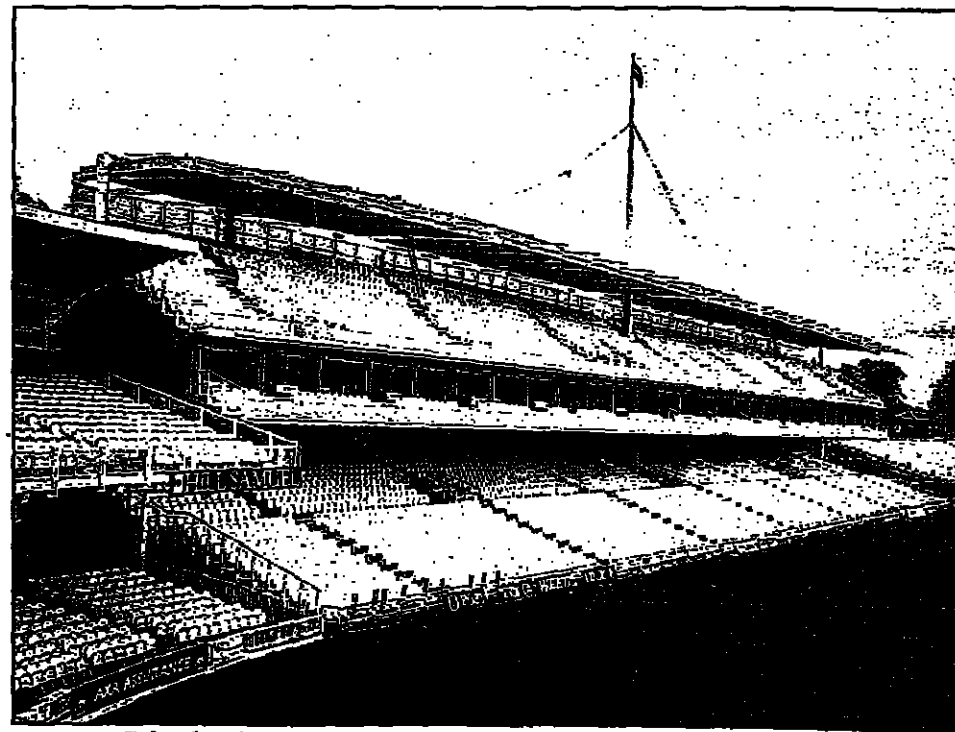
The Samaritans

AS THE Second Test Match between England and South Africa opened at Lord's yesterday, the ribbon was cut by the Duke of Edinburgh on cricket headquarters' latest architectural acquisition, a new grandstand by Nicholas Grimshaw.

Silvery white and luminous, this new £12m grandstand seemingly floats above the green pitches, although it is in fact hunkered into the ground on three small load-bearing posts. A spinal cord of steel in one single piece, hidden within the structure, supports 6,000 tiered seats.

Without any obvious means of support, and uncluttered by the posts and columns of an earlier age, it provides the best view of the pitch at Lord's. That's why the MCC allowed a modest but quaint grandstand, built in the Edwardian pavilion style by Sir Herbert Baker, to be demolished and this crisp, white, cruise liner of a viewing platform to rise in its place. You couldn't see the boundaries from certain sections of Baker's grandstand, but nothing interrupts the sight lines from Grimshaw's. There isn't even any guttering on this building, which expresses itself along the 100 metres purely in horizontal lines. On wet days, hidden vacuum pumps suck rain from its elliptical roof and pump it underground.

The collection of buildings around the pitch at Lord's offers a potted history of the construction industry, from the



Nicholas Grimshaw's design graces Lord's cricket ground

Glynn Griffiths

Edwardian red brick cosiness of the MCC Pavilion, to Future Systems' Nat West Media Centre which will open in August. Just as Future Systems prefabricated their aerodynamic contoured module as a white, seamless shell in a boat yard in Falmouth, Grimshaw prefabricated 606 pre-cast concrete floor units. His architects were dispatched as quality controllers throughout every stage, to assemble a kit as precise as Lego with a seamless, fluid,

silky finish that is good to touch. Mica massed into the cement gives the grandstand a silvery burnish, very discreet but beautiful.

Nobody ever goes behind a stadium unless they're looking for the lavatories. But standing behind the Grimshaw building you can see what a technological breakthrough was made in the design in collaboration with engineers Ove Arup.

"Bridges are built like this but never a building – until

now," says Richard Matthews, project manager at Ove Arup, as he explains the tension of assembling pre-cast modular pieces on such a gigantic scale. Any mistake in the calibrations would have been disastrous. There were tense moments as the pre-cast pieces were driven on site in convoys by night and then jacked into position along the entire span of 100 metres. "When we de-jacked them slowly, and took all the props out at the end of construction, it

hung there as firm as you like, the whole building across 100 metres and not a single seam out of place."

Only then did the MCC, who had been watching building progress over the 18 months, reveal how nervous they'd been about the project. "Imagine if any one of those 606 pieces had been out, by even just 5mm. The knock-on effect would have been tremendous," says Richard Matthews.

Everyone is delighted with the final result. The MCC's archaic rules about members wearing ties, and not allowing women into their hallowed precincts, may have cost them lottery funding for this project, but they can be proud of the innovative way in which they have kept contemporary architects' eyes on the ball. This dates from the makeover of the Mound Stand by Michael Hopkins between 1984 and 1991, to the futuristic media centre by Future Systems, and now Grimshaw's stand.

Behind all this far-sighted commissioning of the very best contemporary architecture, of course, is the pressing financial need to pack more punters into every game of a very limited season.

No one likes to admit it, but since major sporting events are now established as corporate entertaining venues, Lord's has had to increase seating capacity. The brilliant spin-off is a showcase for British architectural and engineering genius.

The creators of 'Hey Persephone!' have never worked with opera. Are they a dream team or a recipe for disaster? By Nick Kimberley

How to make an opera that sings

TAKE THREE WOMEN: a composer, Deirdre Gribbin, at the beginning of a career already marked by an original approach to sonorousity. A playwright, Sharman Macdonald, whose first play, *When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout*, won the 1984 Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, and whose *The Winter Guest* was filmed by Alan Rickman. And a director, Hettie Macdonald (not related), with a reputation for staging new work, notably Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing*. None of them has ever worked in opera, but now they're collaborating on a new opera, *Hey Persephone!* A recipe for disaster? Or are they the dream team, bringing innocence and freshness to an idiom in desperate need of just those qualities?

The days when new opera was a natural feature of the musical landscape are long gone, and Deirdre Gribbin acknowledges that, before this project got underway, she "wasn't sure what the purpose of contemporary opera was, why we needed new opera". Yet once immersed in what she describes as "the whole idea of drama and words and how music can enhance and transform them", she was hooked.

The relationship between Gribbin and Sharman Macdonald was fostered by the Aldeburgh Festival, but, as Gribbin recalls, not everything went quite as planned: "Sharman and I talked through a lot of ideas, but when I got the libretto, I read the title, *Hey Persephone!* and thought: this is not what I expected. I don't think this is anything to do with what we've discussed. But we'd talked for a long time. I'd read her plays, and I felt there was definitely a strong connection between our work. Her language is very beautiful, poetic and light, and I soon had strong visual images of the interaction between the characters. Then

I began to hear the sound-world I wanted." In fact, Sharman Macdonald was just as surprised by the title and subject: "I hadn't meant to rewrite a Greek myth at all. I was going to write about a dance class in South London, but while I was sitting in my garden one day, contemplating that idea, this phrase came into my head: 'Hey Persephone, your dinner's ready...' It was completely unlooked for, but you have to go with these things. Nevertheless, I didn't go back to the original myth, I only look the points that I remembered: the pomegranate, the relationship between the mother and the daughter, and the father who sorts everything out. Then I moved it into Glasgow and into the present. There's no line in it now about her dinner, but there is mushroom soup. There was always mischief in the idea; it was laughter that began the libretto, and I hope there's still laughter in it, although let's not go so far as to call it a comedy."

After the initial shock of Macdonald's libretto, Gribbin had to find the music to fit: "I spent a long time with the text before writing any music, to the point where I almost knew the libretto by heart. I knew I was going to have to be with the piece for a long time, and that writing an opera is a huge process that you can't just dabble in, so I waited until I had space to work at it. I read the libretto in a very special place to me, on Hadrian's Wall, giving myself time to absorb Sharman's rhythmic ideas, and her structures. We have different perceptions of dramatic structure, but then composers play with time in a very different way from writers. I worked alone for a year, from five in the morning until ten at night, which taught me a lot about being a composer, more than I've ever experienced before. I cut

some text because it had to be a 90-minute opera, and it was difficult to choose which words to use, which not to use. I'd have liked to use them all, but I hope I've allowed enough space for things to happen." The responsibility for ensuring that things do indeed happen has now passed to Hettie Macdonald, a director familiar with the joys and heartaches of bringing new work to the stage. "The difference here," Macdonald suggests, "is that I have two writers, Deirdre and Sharman; and each has her own voice, so it's tricky to find a way through that does them both justice: but it's also an interesting challenge. So much of the work with a play is building it up so that you have the right pace, the right shape. With an opera, all that is decided by the music, so you work backwards from there. During the first weeks of rehearsal, I had to be patient because, quite rightly, all the singers were worried about was the technicalities of the music. Then when they'd got the music, I came in to talk about character, story and so on. For me that's back-to-front. What I would normally do in the first two weeks of a rehearsal period, I'm doing in the last two weeks. Fortunately the singers are great. You hear horror stories about the *grandes dames* of opera, but everyone here is completely committed to the piece."

As a director used to working with speech, Macdonald has been touched by opera's fundamental attribute: the characters sing. "Being sung to is the most directly emotional experience, it goes straight into you at a very deep level. Because I don't read music, all I had to work from at first was the libretto, and I worried that I wouldn't be able to interpret the piece; but the first day of rehearsal was so moving, seeing the singers sitting there, pouring out this wonderful music. The minute you hear it and get to work on it, it's just like directing a play, only they're singing."

And so *Hey Persephone!* is born. It opens next week at the Aldeburgh Festival, which has a distinguished record with opera premieres, from Britten and Birtwistle to Taverner and Furnace. Gribbin, Macdonald and Macdonald sounds like a firm of solicitors. Soon we'll know whether they're a first-class team of opera-makers.



'Hey Persephone!' opens next week at the Aldeburgh Festival Jason Bye

Even Britten could be a brute

CLASSICAL
CARNIVAL NIGHT
ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

LAST SATURDAY night's Aldeburgh Festival concert from the Snape Maltings Hall was a "Carnival Night". No funny hats, fireworks or audience participation - that happened the following morning on Aldeburgh beach, when hundreds of people turned up to see Stephen Montague, perched precariously on the top of a bulldozer, conducting vintage cars, radios, brass bands, children banging cans and pebbles (and good therapeutic fun it was, too). This was a 20th-century orchestra concert, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra devised and conducted by festival director Oliver Knussen.

An audience in the hidden City

This year's London Festival concerts are being held in the Square Mile's guild halls. Nicole Veash goes on a tour of the venues while, below, Rob Cowan reveals the St Petersburg Chamber Choir's love of the liturgy

LONDON ALWAYS surprises. Even those who have lived in the city for years confirm that its hidden nooks and crannies can never be underestimated. The organisers of the annual London Festival know the real pulling power of the capital's secret delights. The Oscar-winning composer John Williams or even the renowned cellist Steven Isserlis might draw big crowds, but the real stars of this year's cultural bash are the venues.

In the heart of London's Square Mile, a handful of buildings stand testament to the country's once powerful trade guilds. Most of the City's Livery Companies are shut away from public gaze, only opening their doors to the odd corporate function or yearly freemason dinner; which is a great shame because their unique windows on the past deserve to be shared with a wider audience.

And this is the real reason why getting tickets for the London Festival is a good thing. The event co-ordinators have managed to arrange a series of concerts and readings in various city guilds. Acting as mutual protection societies for members of their trade, the guilds were granted royal charters in the 14th century giving them the rights to buy the property which they maintain to this day.

Drapers' Hall, in the closed thoroughfare of Throgmorton Street, is one of the venues opening its doors to the public with, among other events, a concert by the composer/conductor Krzysztof Penderecki. Although the Drapers have resided on the site since 1543, the present building is 19th century in design.

The festival audience passes through a heady ornate set of bronze doors, above which is the guild's motif, a ram with golden fleece, and on to an oak-panelled corridor which flanks a mimic medieval courtyard. The lavish marble and al-

abaster staircase at the end of the corridor, with its William Morris carpet, leads up to the evening's concert hall. Beadle John Freestone says anyone interested can have a good look round the hidden rooms, staff obligations allowing.

The Court Room, resplendent with Louis XV tapestries and 18th-century chandeliers, and the more intimate Warden's Room, will both be open for public perusal. But it is in the gilt-leaved, mirror-windowed Livery Hall that the concert takes place. Two hundred people, snugly crammed into this atmospheric room, will be able to contemplate the Shakespearean ceiling murals and a litany of royal portraits.

Round the corner in Threadneedle Street, the Merchant Taylor's Hall is venue to a string concert by Isserlis and friends. Less overwhelmingly ornate than Drapers', the Taylor's guild has a stark, more monastic feel to it. The



Drapers' Hall is opening its doors to the public

Shocked by electric Cole

ON THE AIR
ROBERT MAYCOCK

FOR YEARS I over-estimated Cole Porter's sense of sexual adventure. "Electric eels on my dad do it, though it shocks 'em I know" - surely those were the words Eartha Kitt seemed to be savouring in her nostrils, as if they were too intimate to make clear. It took Rebecca Caine, singing with the authentic enunciation of a musical comedy ingénue, ("Electric eels, I might add, do it") to straighten me out in last week's concert devoted to Porter's music Radio 3. "Let's Do It" was one of the several famous songs played by the BBC Concert Orchestra in newly commissioned orchestrations.

And what pleasure to hear these songs restored to their original freshness and the words crystal clear, and really acted. Nicholas Grace, who introduced the show, sang "Miss Otis Regrets" precisely as it should be sung, by an elderly butler. It's a parody of a Western ballad, which is subverted by suggesting that the anti-heroine is a society lady whose only concern, as she's being strung up for murder, is to apologise for missing a lunch appointment with a lady friend. The tune is modelled on a corrobey cowboy song, yet genuinely touching and beautiful: when sung simply, its mixture of tender feeling and cautionary advice gives it an edge lost when sung, out of context, by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald.

Not for nothing did Fitzgerald develop the art of scat-singing, which dispensed with words and their meaning. This was demonstrated, with stunning labouredness, in Channel 4's dismal series, *Jazz Heroes*, shown on Sunday evenings.

The following programme was more enterprising, because it featured Gerry Mulligan, about whom at least there was some dirt to deliver (he was imprisoned for a drugs offence); but it was equally technophobic: Jon Surman had obviously been asked to explain "counterpoint" as if it were the facts of life, and then understated what counterpoint really was - merely putting a bass to a melody hardly qualifies.

JOHN MAYALL & THE BLUESBREAKERS
Special Guest: **THE MICK TAYLOR BAND**
(BY ROLLING STONES)
SAT 20th JUNE 1998
Shepherds Bush Empire
Doors 7.00pm, Tickets: £15.00 Standing, £17.50 Seated Advanced
BOX OFFICE: 0171 921 9999
Stargrove 0171 731 8982, Ticketmaster 0171 244 4444
Hakos 0171 240 0771, First Call 0171 120 1000
City Box Office 0171 576 2092

From Russia with love

THE SACRED muse who has so tenaciously embraced British music lovers for the past five or so years is no newcomer to St Petersburg.

Nikolai Korniev is the leader, founder and conductor of the 21-year-old St Petersburg Chamber Choir and he tells me that liturgical music has held sway among the city's musical minions "for decades, even during the Soviet period".

Although he adds: "It is very difficult to compare it with the present time because there is a crisis in practically every sphere of our lives." Which is what you will hear on virtually every street corner in a city ready to be rediscovered.

And yet even among the pitted roads, rusty Ladas and Communist concrete monsters (mostly on the city's outskirts), music still has its place. The collapse of Communist bureaucracy has meant that musicians can perform anywhere they like, without the need for written permission.

Audiences, too, retain a healthy love of listening. Korniev recounts a recent success where a three-hour Bach marathon consisting of organ and chorus chorales held its audience captive: "You might have expected half of them to leave after the interval," he says, "but none of them did."

Future plans extend to a local cantata and oratorio festival that will embrace such diverse themes as "The Three Antonios" (Vivaldi, Lodi and Caldera), the unfamiliar Requiem of Donizetti, Saint-Saëns and Schumann, and Mendelssohn's *Eljohi*.

Furthermore, the Choir will travel to Max Reger's family home at Weiden to perform Reger's rarely-heard *Threes Sacred Songs*, Op 110, and in Rome they will sing Bach to the attenuated tones of period instruments.

Korniev has collaborated with Mikhail Pletnev in Scriabin's *Prometheus* and plans to sing Rachmaninov's *The Bells* and *Choruses* under Vladimir Ashkenazy, but his approach to Rachmaninov's *Vespers* is, by his own admission, "very different to the way other choirs perform it in Russia."

MUSIC

I was the victim of Hanson hysteria

SLEEVE
NOTES

Wembley hasn't seen this level of hormone-induced hysteria since the days of Take That.

Don't fancy yours much, says
Ryan Gilbey

Had I wanted to blend in with the rest of the audience at the first British gig by the spectacularly blond pop trio Hanson, I would have needed to follow a time-honoured code of behaviour established many centuries ago by Zen Buddhist teenyboppers.

One: felt-tip the names "Zac" or "Tay" across my forehead and cheeks (no one goes in for Isaac, the older lad; Zac and Tay resemble the love-children of Jean Shrimpton and Joe Dallesandro, but with Isaac it seems that John Merrick's genes got a look-in as well). Two: spend the entire evening gibbering to the St John's Ambulance stretcher team about how my heart belongs to Zac or Tay (but definitely not Isaac). Three: arrange for my mum and dad to pick me up after the gig. But if I called my parents, they'd just scoff and say "You have your own car, you never come to visit, and what's a 26-year-old doing at a Hanson concert anyway?"

Good question. I was snared by the band's joyous album *Middle of Nowhere* because there are some moments when only a bubblegum-pop ditty sung by three loveable infant mop-tops (or two, not counting Isaac) will do. Man cannot live on Asian Dub Foundation alone.

I may have been the only disappointed fan at Wembley Arena on Tuesday night. The thousands of youngsters who crowded into the arena had blistered their larynxes hours before the band hit the hospitality suite, let alone the stage. Frankly, the hysteria was rather terrifying, and it struck you that these girls could have



Hanson sing and play in earnest, but the truth is that their fans are probably more interested in their looks - except for Isaac's, that is

Tony Buckingham

cleaned up the Marseilles football violence far more effectively than any riot squad.

The pared-down show suggested that Hanson may be frustrated at having attracted a following which could prove incompatible with their musical aspirations. There were no video-screens, which was perverse given that the band are adored as much for their locks as their licks: the

element of perceived intimacy which is crucial to hero-worship is removed if the idols in question are reduced to smudges of light in the distance. When you have less stage presence than your microphone stand, then video screens become a necessary evil.

All the same, admired their pluck. Aside from one arresting visual effect, when Taylor's silhouette loomed on a white curtain

which was then dropped to reveal the band, they played it hard and fast. There was a beginner's guide to r'n'b, with "Gimme Some Lovin'" and "Shake a Tailfeather", the subtext being "yes, we can play our instruments". After a couple of rabble-rousers, the evening was largely surrendered to sensitive acoustic ballads, which reached its nadir when Isaac took to the keyboard and became Richard Clay-

derman. You knew that all would be forgiven if Isaac was burnt at the stake, or the band went on to unleash the glorious "MMMBop". Wembley fire regulations left only the latter option.

It's refreshing to find a pop group who have set their sights on something more than just getting their faces on pillow-cases, and it would be nice to see them applying that level of discernment to the

venues they play. Arena gigs are rarely jazzed up by anything other than laser shows.

Guest appearances are an option, and Hanson could have chosen from the erstwhile 3-2-1 host Ted Rogers, witnessed parading his tangerine tan in the foyer, or Paul Cook, who was revisiting his years of living dangerously with the Sex Pistols by sampling a beef burger purchased from a forecourt vendor.

THE FORMER Sex Pistol, Johnny Rotten, otherwise known as John Lydon, is to host his own weekly television show for the music channel VH1. It has been given the working title of *Rotten Television* and will concentrate on popular culture - or something like that. "I am going to tell it like it is - straight, bare-faced, honest. I intend to burn and destroy many aspects that people hold so dear," he said. His manager, Eric Gardner, says *Rotten Television* will be the "antichrist of magazine shows." Will it pass pilot stage in the US?

SINCE THE Phoenix Festival was cancelled last week, it has been announced that Prodigy will join the bill for the Saturday night at Reading festival (29 August), while New Order will appear on the Sunday. Vince Power, the head of Mean Fiddler Organisation, cited poor ticket sales due to wet weather and the World Cup. Previous cancellations included last month's Universe event, the Briton Heavyweight and Lighthouse Family at Finsbury Park. An industry source said in *Melody Maker* that apart from V98 and Glastonbury this was probably the worst year he could remember for festival ticket sales.

DODGY SINGER Nigel Clark is leaving the band to concentrate on solo projects. The band's management say the split is amicable, and the band will continue with drummer Matthew Priest and guitarist Andy Miller.

UNSIGNED MUSIC is a new website for registering bands. Bands should supply audio files of two tracks plus a logo, a brief introduction and personal information to Inclusion Dept, Unsigned Music, 3 Mandrake Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 8SQ.

JENNIFER RODGER

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

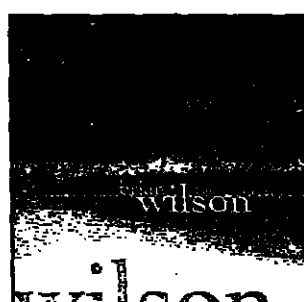
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

IMAGINATION

BRIAN WILSON
(Giant 74321 57303 2)

THE BATTLE for Brian Wilson's soul has been waged with such ruthless ferocity over the past few decades that it's something of a miracle that this most troubled of musical geniuses can still make music at all - though on the evidence of *Imagination*, the turmoil continues to take its toll.

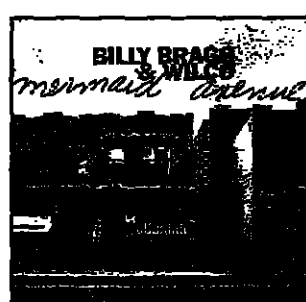
Indeed, the *Nineties* have been as puzzling a period as any for Wilson observers. It's 10 years since his last solo album proper, since when there have been "lost" recordings, such as the *Sweet Insanity* album (cancelled due to the record company's belief that fans wouldn't appreciate an album of self-analysis); a collaboration with Van Dyke Parks, *Orange Crate Art*, which was more Parks than Wilson; a soundtrack to Don Was's Wilson documentary *I Just Was* -



n't *Made For These Times*, comprising mostly re-recorded career highlights; and yet more "lost" recordings from sessions done with Andy Paley, Wilson's most reliable enabler of recent years.

For *Imagination*, Paley has been replaced by Joe Thomas, formerly a wrestler known as "Surfer Joe". For all his pseudonymous opposition, however, Thomas seems to have little empathy with Wilson's talent, which is shoe-horned here into the kind of mediocre AOR arrangements that crippled American rock in the Eighties. It's not with-

out its occasional glories - mostly to do with his vocals, which remain sublime - but as a whole it's curiously lacking in the kind of grace and sensitivity that have been a Wilson watchword since the Sixties. Most worryingly of all, the decent tracks date mostly from the Sixties - re-recordings of "Let Him Run Wild" and "Keep An Eye On Summer", and another old tune, "She Says That She Needs Me", one of several songs on which Brian has been ill-advisedly "partnered" by pro song-hacks like Carole Bayer Sager, Jimmy Buffet and JD Souther. Of the more recent songs, the best are "Cry", a solo piece whose melody takes a Wilsonian left turn or two, and the opener "Your Imagination", *nostalgic de la plage* into which Brian sneaks a cry for help. "I miss the way that I used to call the shots around here," he sings. "You know, it would've been nice if I had something to do." It would indeed.



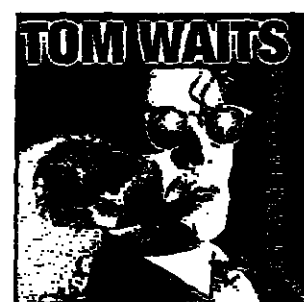
MERMAID AVENUE
BILLY BRAGG & WILCO
EASTWEST 7359-62204-2

INVITED BY Woody Guthrie's daughter Nora to add music to a recently discovered sheaf of her late father's lyrics, Billy Bragg called in American country-rockers Wilco to contribute a variety of rootsy US textures to the songs. The results, as gathered together on *Mermaid Avenue*, are surprisingly beguiling, with a strength and vigour rare in most modern songwriting. Guthrie's range, which stretched from children's dit-

ties to rousing socialist sloganeering, is well represented here: "Hoodoo Voodoo" is as daft a singalong as his more famous "Car Car", while his political convictions resound as firm as ever in the union song "I Guess I Planted".

Most of the album exists somewhere between those poles, in the borderline bawdiness of the sailors' shanty "Walt Whitman's Niece" and the self-deprecation of the autobiographical "Way Over Yonder In The Minor Key". Both songs have been brought beautifully to life by Bragg and Wilco, who lend the material a sort of good-time, jug-band warmth reminiscent of Dylan & The Band's *Basement Tapes*.

With guest artists such as Natalie Merchant, violinist Eliza Carthy and the young acoustic bluesman Corey Harris broadening the palette further, *Mermaid Avenue* is a rare and rewarding exercise in musical archaeology.



BEAUTIFUL MALADIES
TOM WAITS ISLAND 524 519-2

DRAWN FROM his 15-year tenure at Island Records, this marvellous compilation reaffirms Tom Waits' position as the primary primitivist of his generation - and a remarkably sophisticated primitivist, at that. For all its diversity, Waits' project retains a singular coherence, as he draws on aspects of every American musical strain, from jazz and blues to the more avant-garde stylings of *sui generis* Thirties salvage auteur Harry Partch, and blends

them into a whisky folk music of his own devising. It's a method that takes him into the half-hidden corners of America's Latin and European immigrant cultures, to add the angular rhythms of polka and rumba and plenty else besides, revealing them to his countrymen in a richly evocative way akin to the Coen Brothers' film *Fargo*: as strange neighbours in a big country.

Rarely has the vagabond variety of life been as richly evoked as it is in Waits' songs, either. There's a rough skein of vernacular - commonplace, slang and nursery rhyme - that binds these character studies and tableaux to truth, and also lends a reassuring familiarity to their wheezing, clanking combinations of harmonium, accordion, marimba, horns and cockeyed counterpoint guitar.

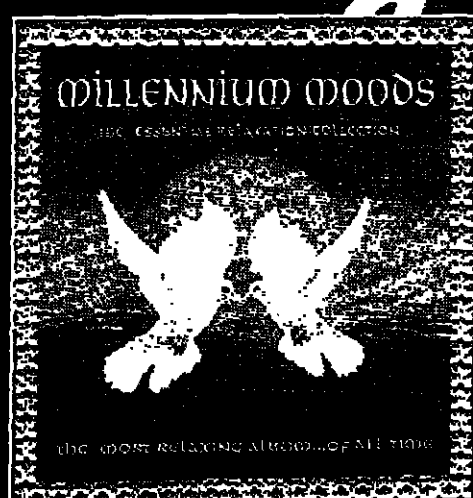
It's pretty good value for money, too: 23 tracks, and not the trace of a dull moment amongst them.



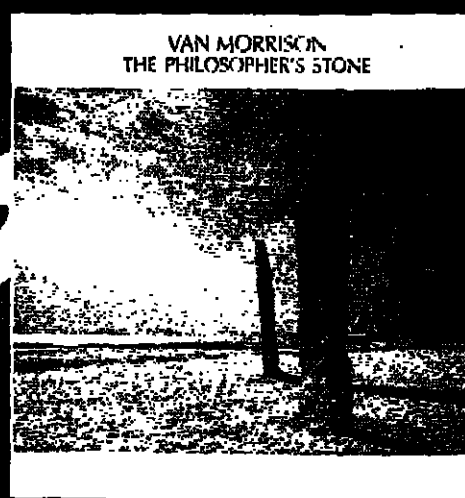
LONG AS I HAVE YOU
JOHN HAMMOND
POINTBLANK DVPBCD44

THERE ARE so many indifferent blues albums released each month - mostly tiresome showcases for guitar show-offs - that it's easy to miss the occasional gem like *Long As I Have You*, on which John Hammond runs through material both famous and arcane in the company of blues bar band Little Charlie & The Nightcats. This is what it must have been like to hear the blues before it went north to Chicago, and electricity.

Recommended releases.



Various Artists 'Millennium Moods'. If you're starting to get stressed at the prospect of the millennium, this is the perfect album for you. Chill out and relax with this seriously blissful compilation, featuring the kind of haunting soundscape that we have come to associate with the 'Moods' series.



Van Morrison 'The Philosopher's Stone'. This dazzling collection consists of 30 songs recorded by Van Morrison between 1971 and 1988 and never previously released. Forget outtakes; these are tracks that stand up in their own right and could easily have been included on albums!

Still massive after all these years

He was big 30 years ago, but Horace Andy is singing sweetly to this day. By James Maycock

THE SWEET, celestial voice of Horace Andy - singing "You are my angel / Come from the way above / To give me love" - pierced the dark, rumbling sound of Massive Attack during the first moments of their recent concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The song, "You Are My Angel", composed and recorded by Andy in 1974, and idiosyncratically reworked by both Massive Attack and Simply Red, is revered by reggae musicians and singers for revealing the depths of Jamaican creativity and musical inspiration.

Horace Andy's fruitful relationship with Massive Attack began in 1990, but his musical past is long and rich. He recorded his first song, "Black Man's Country", for Sun Shot Records in 1966. (The producer, Phil Pratt, now owns Scandal, a Jamaican restaurant in Harlesden, and cooks "the best jerk chicken in London" according to Andy.) But it was at Studio One, in the early 1970s, that Horace Andy developed his voice, one that is, perhaps, the most instinctive in reggae music.

Mr. Bassie, a collection of his recordings from this period, demonstrates the fragile, sometimes child-like qualities of his falsetto voice, ably supported by the raw, robust sound moulded by the session musicians at Studio One.

"I never got paid when I was young", Andy admits, and still today he will not receive any royalties from sales of this CD, nor from several others that bear his name. "I've seen three CDs and I'm not getting paid for them. But these record companies that put them out, they know. That's what's so unfair - you put the song out; these producers, all of them, they get the money".

Horace Andy was born in the Kingston district of Allman Town in 1951. He sang at his local church and school and it was at here that he acquired the nickname "Sleepy". He explains, with a gentle laugh, "When I was very young, about 12 years old, I loved to sleep." His doctor, finding no signs of narcolepsy, informed him his condition was transient.

After recording those first singles at Sun Shot Records in 1966, the years before his arrival at Studio One in 1970 were invested in musical disciplines: "I thought I could sing, but I couldn't sing. I had to coach myself. We used to get up and sing everyday and play the guitar and write songs. We had to do it ourselves. I had to do it myself."

Hearing his cousin, the singer Justin Hinds, on the radio only increased his motivation. His religious curiosity was cemented in 1968, the year he joined the Rastafarian faith: "I used to love listening to good reasoning, to sit down and listen to the Rastaman, you know, they were telling me nothing bad."

When he was releasing songs through Studio One his musical initiation continued. "When I went to Studio One, The Heptones was there, you know, Scully was there, Burning Spear. But the most I learned was from Alton Ellis. Me and Dennis Brown called Alton, 'The Father'."

Leroy Sibbles and Pablo Black also tutored him: "I had to learn harmony, everything. That's why I love Studio One."

Although the studio had lost the impetus it had in the Sixties, it was still a formidable company in the early Seventies. Horace Andy believes this was because Clement Dodd, the owner, accepted that "Rastafarians were the famous musicians, they were the best singers, the best writers".

American soul singers, especially Curtis Mayfield, had a dramatic influence on Jamaican singers and vocal groups. Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, the leader of Toots and the Maytals, was powerfully affected by James Brown; and Delroy Wilson was inspired by the songs and voice of Lou Rawls. Horace Andy loved the music of Otis Redding and the impact of American soul music is reflected on Mr. Bassie. But his interpretations of Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine", "Oh Lord, Why Lord?" by Parliament and "Fever" are instilled with a pronounced Jamaican character.

The subjects of the songs he wrote, himself, like "Conscious Dreadlocks", "Help The Children" and "Every Tongue Shall Tell" often referred to the social plight of Jamaicans. Jamaican singers with high voices usually devoted themselves to singing about love, but Andy sang songs of protest in an angelic falsetto and it was this that delighted Bob Marley.



Horace Andy: a new lease of life thanks to Massive Attack

Patrick Ford

Horace Andy's original compositions are credited to himself and Clement Dodd, the owner of Studio One. Although Clement Dodd did not write the songs, Horace Andy explains that, "the investors in Jamaica always say they write the songs, they produce it, they do everything". The chaos of an emerging music industry in its infancy created opportunities for ruthless entrepreneurs to exploit powerless or naive singers and musicians. The desire of many young Jamaicans to record and release their music was intense and they were easily lured into studios without signing any contracts.

Copyright laws were vague and singers were not in a position to enforce them and demand royalties. Horace Andy remembers that, "I was getting two cents - two cents off each record, and then it went to five cents. We weren't making any money. You don't get no advance in those days, right? When they put the songs out, if it sells 3,000, you can't get no money. Yet if it sells one you are supposed to get paid." The ramifications of this, today, is Horace Andy's inability to recover any royalties for his Studio One recordings.

Horace Andy is a prolific musician and after leaving Studio One, he recorded many singles and albums for other Jamaican and American producers. Peckings, the reggae shop in Shepherd's Bush which specialises in Studio One recordings, sells his rarest seven-inch single, "Illiteracy", for £70.

Two years ago, the compilation *Skyarking* was released on Melanolic Records, which is run by Massive Attack, to "let people know what I was doing before". A new album, with contributions from Joe Strummer, will be released before the end of the year.

The longest period that he has lived outside of Jamaica is 18 months, but he maintains, "I always go back". And despite the lack of financial reward for his Studio One work, Horace Andy, who after all wrote the song "Money, Money (The

Root of All Evil)", generously reminisces about the studio. "Clement Dodd is a very nice person, no matter what. He never stopped me from playing no instruments. When there was no session going on, I could always play the piano, play the bass, play the guitar, whenever. That's where I learned to sing and to sing harmony, so I have no regrets."

"Mr. Bassie" by Horace Andy is released on Heartbeat Records on 22 June.

FIRST AND LAST

FROM THE RECORD COLLECTION OF TANTIA TIKARAM



Architecture and Morality OMD

"It was revolutionary at the time, or so it seemed to an 11-year-old. I listened to it intensely for a year without being able to understand the title. It was like a concept album, the geometric shapes on the cover and the two versions of 'Joan of Arc'. It's funny, because it hasn't really stayed with me, but as a kid these weird elements seemed like 'wow!'."

Rose and Charcoal Marisa Monte

"I heard this on a compilation tape in a friend's car, an amazing cover version of Lou Reed's 'Pale Blue Eyes'. When you discover a new voice and it's utterly compelling, you just fall in love. It is quite rare, as you get older, to discover things like that. And to find a singer who has real warmth and a sexy, sensual album. It is one of those records you live with."

LYRIC SHEET

In a move dubbed 'rock 'n' role' by Whitehall insiders, aspiring pop stars may be able to claim benefits unhindered by Welfare-To-Work schemes

They want you up at crack of noon
To write a standard three-chord tune
With Zenta plank and Woolworth's amp
In practice room which smells of damp
Best learn to pose and hone your ear
Before you bring that claim in here

Fill in this form sit down and wait
They'd like to hear that middle eight
And even though your synth is cheap
Your L.F.O. Pink Noise and bleep
Will need to show a bit more soul
Before you can collect your dole

With damaged ears and bleeding hands
At last a year in tribute bands
He'll strengthen his musicianship
But how d'you rate his native hip?
His pants are tight his goals are fuzzy
Wants to be a pop star does he?

D'you know the chords to Roll With It
Or could you pen a dancefloor hit?
How often do you gig each week
And could you conjure up mystique
From raunchy riff or greasy quiff?
Which Richard's better? Keef or Cliff?

In tests devised by Tony Blair
They mark you on your savoir faire
Is that a drummer at the door?
He's knocking out-of-time I'm sure
He looks like Kurt. He sings like Sid
Best give the boy his 40 quid.

MARTIN NEWELL

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 3 Lions '98	Baddiel, Skinner
2 Vindaloo	Fat Les
3 Got the Feeling	S
4 C'est la Vie	B*Witched
5 Carnaval de Paris	Dario G
6 The Rockafeller Skank	Fatboy Slim
7 Horny	Mousse T
8 Life	Des'ree
9 The Boy Is Mine	Brandy and Monica
10 Dance the Night Away	The Mavericks

TOP 10 SINGLES OF THE YEAR TO DATE

TITLE	ARTIST
1 My Heart Will Go On	Celine Dion
2 It's Like That	Run DMC
3 Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden
4 Doctor Jones	Aqua
5 Newer Ever	All Saints
6 Brimful of Asha	Corneil
7 How Do I Love	Leann Rimes
8 Frozen	Madonna
9 Feel It	Temperer
10 Angels	Robbie Williams

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

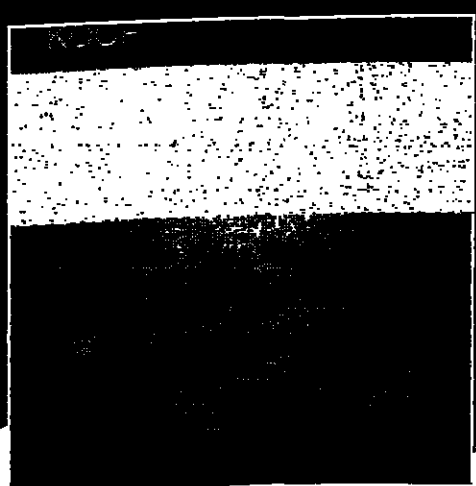
TITLE	ARTIST
1 The Good With Out	Embrace
2 Blue	Simply Red
3 Talk on Corners	The Corrs
4 When We Were...	Rod Stewart
5 Where We Belong	Boyzone
6 Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams
7 Left of the Middle	Natalie Imbruglia
8 All Saints	All Saints
9 Urban Hymns	The Verve
10 International Velvet	Catania

TOP 10 ALBUMS OF THE YEAR TO DATE

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Urban Hymns	The Verve
2 Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams
3 Titanic	OST
4 Let's Talk About Love	Celine Dion
5 All Saints	All Saints
6 Ray of Light	Madonna
7 Postcards from Heaven	Lighthouse Family
8 Left of the Middle	Natalie Imbruglia
9 White on Blonde	Texas
10 Spiceworld	Spice Girls

Koop 'Sons Of Koop'

A breathtaking fusion of the old and the new, the acoustic and the electric, *Sons Of Koop* is a challenging and original release from Swedish duo Koop. Sharp songs combine sty wit with dazzling accordion, brass and strings - discover and enjoy.



Waylon Jennings

'Closing In On The Fire'

The latest album from highly talented US country phenomenon Waylon Jennings. 'Closing In On The Fire' sees Waylon being joined by Sting and Sheryl Crow on 'She's Too Good For Me', as well as guest appearances from Mark Knopfler, Travis Tritt and Waylon's wife Jessi Colter.

TRACK IT DOWN AT

our price

All pumped up and nowhere to run

The press is likely to be the biggest loser as Christie takes on McVicar. By Linda Tsang



Linford Christie decided to sue the publishers and printers

THE HIGH Court is an unlikely venue for a legal battle between John McVicar, once Britain's most wanted man, who is at the end of a libel writ issued by Linford Christie, Olympic gold medal-winner. The case, which opened this week, revolves around an article written by McVicar for a sports magazine called *Spiked*, with an estimated circulation of less than a thousand. This is the relevant part for libel lawyers who act for defendants – the lower the circulation, the lower the damage to reputation and therefore, of any potential damages award.

The article was headlined "How did Linford get so good?" and is said to have raised the question of whether a number of top athletes, including Christie, had taken performance-enhancing drugs. The article was published in 1995, and the magazine is now defunct. It is understood that the publisher was originally sued by the athlete, but when he was killed in a car accident, Christie's lawyers applied for disclosure of the printers – Wiltshire (Bristol) Ltd – and distributors – Johnsons News and WH Smith – and is now suing them.

The case is sub judice but the issues it has raised have wider implications for the print media. As Debbie Askenhurst, a partner at the media firm Otswang, part of the team who acted for the *Guardian* in the libel case brought by the former MP Jonathan Aitken, comments: "It has always been open to sue the printers and distributors of publications – plaintiffs usually do when they are looking for defendants with the deepest pockets."

Under the law, distributors have always had the defence of "innocent dissemination" and since the 1996 Defamation Act was introduced, there is a statutory defence to the same effect, and it is slightly wider. As McVicar's article was published before the Act, it is the common law that will apply. But it is still relatively rare to sue printers and distributors.

One of the most high-profile cases recently was in 1993 when the then prime minister, John Major, sued both the *New Statesman* and *Sunday Magazine*, as well as the former's printers and distributors, when various allegations were made about Mr Major's private life. In the end, the cases of Mr Major and Clare Latimer were settled out of court. David Hooper, a partner at Biddle, who acted for Mr Major comments that there are "going to be striking similarities with that case". That includes the same solicitor – David Price, of David Price & Co – who acted for *Sunday Magazine*, and is now acting for McVicar.



John McVicar's article is at the centre of the case

For the good of the public – and for free

Many lawyers do valuable unpaid community work, but the system needs regulation. By Linda Tsang

"IN THE pro bono arena, I do not want to be a Nimby," avowed the Solicitor General Lord Falconer at the inaugural national conference of the Solicitors Pro Bono Group at the beginning of this month.

This was seen as a positive, if rather cryptic, remark from one of the country's senior law officers. For those who think that pro bono means that support the lead singer of the band, as in fact the abbreviated form for the Latin phrase *pro bono publico* which covers the work of lawyers done free "for the good of the public". Contrary to popular belief, this does happen quite frequently.

Inevitably, as one cynical lawyer observed: "In a week when there was the announcement of the House of Lords' inquiry into the level of QCs' payments from the Legal Aid Fund, and the historic meeting of pro bono lawyers, you would not have difficulty guessing which topic would get more news coverage."

But many home truths were highlighted at the first conference of the group, including the fact that many City law firms who purport to support the initiative did not turn up in person for the conference. The high profile exception was Tony Willis, a partner at the largest law firm in Europe, Clifford Chance, and chairman of the group.

One of the problems highlighted by the conference was the lack of information about the work which is actually done – it is not measured on any quantitative or qualitative scale so that, as the anecdote goes, helping the local golf club with drafting its constitution can be included as pro bono work.

But what is also not recorded is the free advice and assistance given to a whole range of cases, from the mentoring of teenage children in inner cities to providing legal advice to the World Jewish Congress for the

recovery of the Nazi gold; from providing advice to the two women who survived the Ethiopian Airlines crash following the hijacking, to numerous Caribbean death row cases.

There was also good news about the profession's efforts in providing free legal advice and assistance. A 1995 survey showed that the London office of Chicago-based Baker & McKenzie was the top performer with an average of 13 hours per annum of pro bono work; more recent Law Society research has shown that lawyers in private practice give, on average, 37 hours of free advice and help a year.

As Peta Sweet, director of the group, acknowledges: "Lawyers all over the UK – both barristers (through the Bar Pro Bono Unit) and solicitors – provide free advice in a wide number of community projects, but it is not often recorded or recognised. That includes a number of under-rated initiatives such as the local branch of the Law Society in Leeds setting up a small claims advice centre within the local county court and providing phone advice lines to the local advice agencies. All over the country, there are links between law firms and Citizens' Advice Bureaus to provide legal advice."

But what those surveys also show is that, to make real progress, UK lawyers will have to adopt the approach of the US law firms. For American lawyers who want to stick to the ideal of serving the public in the pursuit of truth, justice and the American way, doing pro bono work can mean the most rewarding and interesting jobs – and not necessarily in monetary terms.

And it is money that remains the bone of contention. Critics say that pro bono work is not recorded because their paying clients might object, or because the public will



Trainee solicitor Chen Ya Lok with Michael Wood, one of the partners at Baker & McKenzie who give up their spare time to coach would-be lawyers

query why more advice is not provided pro bono.

Peta Sweet says: "Pro bono is not anything new. What we are saying is that the time has come to build on what is already happening. The profession, with outside agencies, needs to look again at the way pro bono work is undertaken and to work

more effectively together so the approach is less ad hoc and more co-ordinated. The results will benefit everyone."

Lord Falconer, in his keynote speech at the conference, said: "If there is a cynic present, he or she might say that the Government's support (for pro bono services) is driven by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But that is a mistaken view and I should like to nail it here. Pro bono work is not an alternative to an efficient and fair system of access to justice which this Government intends to deliver – it is complementary to it."

Cynics were no doubt tuned in to the Radio Five Live Nicky Campbell phone-in programme at the end of that "bad for QCs" week, when the awkward figure of Attila the Stockbroker was pitted against Mark Haslam and Burton Copeland, and asked, possibly rhetorically: "Why aren't all lawyers forced to do work pro bono?"

THE CHAIRWOMAN of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Kamlesh Bahl, has called for the Government to introduce a "super law" to bring the current sex equality laws up to date. Ms Bahl said that a response to an EOC consultation showed "overwhelming support for a new single statute which protects sex equality as a basic human right".

CITY LAW firm Linklaters & Paines' talks to create the world's largest legal federation are reported to be in disarray. The UK firm is planning to link up with leading law firms in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and France which make up the Alliance of European Lawyers. But the fact that the Paris firm Jeantet & Associates has reportedly refused to join the federation has led to speculation that another Paris firm Rambaud Martel will be asked to replace Jeantet.

Are we being deceived by the media view of fraud cases?

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



MONTY RAPHAEL

SERIOUS FRAUD makes headlines. Large sums are involved. City institutions whose functions remain a mystery to most are brought low. Men in suits are dragged from their smart addresses, humiliated, and put on trial. And then, horror of horrors, some are acquitted.

Are they acquitted in larger numbers than other accused? No. Why, then, this preoccupation with how serious fraud is tried? The Home Office has invited the public's view on whether the system for trying serious and complex fraud should be changed, and the accountancy firm KPMG has responded by echoing past calls for an end to jury trials in such cases.

But all this interest cannot have arisen because we put serious fraud high on the penal agenda. Only one, or possibly two, of our 43 police

forces, place fraud high on their list. There is no national fraud squad. There are no regional fraud squads.

Often fraud goes unreported because companies do not wish to air their dirty linen in public. Losses are recovered civilly, or not at all. There is a very limited duty to report fraud, even by professionals. Those tasked with investigating fraud: the police, customs, the revenue, the Department of Trade and Industry are all under-resourced.

The Serious Fraud Office, that unjustly and often maligned agency, is charged with investigating a tiny proportion of reported cases. Its success rate is impressive, contrary to the message given by the media.

Twelve years after Lord Roskill's Committee reported on fraud, and led to the setting up of the SFO, we are no wiser about how to tackle

what is a widespread national and international problem.

We are certainly no better informed now than we were then about how juries in fraud trials go about their work. Then, as now, Parliament had forbidden any research on live juries. There is some evidence from the United States, some experimental results with ghost juries, but we know really know, only the following:

1. Juries are chosen at random (they are for all cases).
2. Jurors have no training (they do not for any trial), even those involving detailed, scientific or medical evidence.
3. Juries are directed on law and helped on fact by Judges whose expertise in the fraud area varies widely.
4. They listen to arguments from

barristers whose advocacy, intellectual skills, and background knowledge, again, vary enormously.

5. They deliver verdicts which sometimes fail to coincide with the public hysteria whipped up by the tabloid press.

6. When they do acquit in headline cases, there is an immediate call for their abolition.

It is tempting to give earnest consideration to those who call for only a limited scrapping of jury trials. Just those few dozen cases a year which are particularly difficult. The individual right to trial by one's peers is only being sacrificed for a few for committing some serious, but seemingly impenetrable, crime.

In these cases we are told only a judge with two hand-picked assessors will be able to master the complex facts, the unfamiliar financial or commercial setting and reach a verdict on the conduct and the accused's state of mind.

I remain unconvinced. Until those who advocate change can demonstrate the merit of their case with cogent evidence, the suspicion must remain that juries are considered to be:

1. Inconvenient, because their verdicts are unpredictable; in other words, they may acquit.
2. Expensive – trials with juries are longer. Unproven.
3. Juries are drawn from the stupid classes and are thus unable to understand complex cases. Patronising and unproven.
4. Juries generally are seen by authority as an anachronism in the late 20th century. If their abolition can be successfully and quietly

brought about for unpopular white-collar crime, then in time they can be made to disappear altogether.

Would that be a bad thing? No one knows, and that is the problem. Surely we must find out whether juries really are the lamp by which liberty is illuminated (to misquote Lord Devlin) otherwise it will be a strange paradox that the Government that is legislating for a Bill of Rights, should contemplate interfering with what many regard to be the right to a fair trial for those accused of white-collar crime.

There is a real risk that in the years to come, men in suits will become one of the oppressed minorities and the miscarriage of justice statistics of the future.

The author is a senior partner at Peters & Peters

The French may have dealt quickly and firmly with English hooligans. But they may also have broken the rules. By Nicole Veash

France: 1 Yobs: 0 But what about the replay?

WHEN 36 football supporters were arrested after violence erupted at Marseille last weekend, it was only a matter of days before six of them found themselves starting prison sentences of up to three months in French jails.

This fast-track justice has been applauded by politicians, commentators and the public alike. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing recognisable thugs dealt with swiftly and banged up, unable to cause further trouble.

Comparisons with our own legal system were inevitably drawn, where efforts to mete out speedy justice are constantly thwarted by inevitable adjournment. But have the French, quite rightly keen to cleanse their soil of hooligans before England's next turf outing on Monday, really administered justice?

The majority of the sentences were handed out to serious, indictable offences. David Shayer, the human bulldog whose St George's cross-embossed beer belly was splashed across most front pages, starts a three-month sentence for throwing missiles at French police, while two Merseyside postal workers, Chris Anderson and Graham Whitby, were given the same sentence for setting fire to a car.

According to Walter Greenwood, media law expert, if similar offences were committed in Britain they would be dealt with by a judge at Crown Court. "Both arson and affray are indictable offences,"

he says. "Even if the accused were pleading guilty, it would be extremely unlikely that a prison sentence would be given out so quickly. Our courts take great care over sentencing. Much angst goes into getting in absolutely right, and that is one of the reasons why our judicial system is notoriously slow."

Such is the British perception of justice, that even if an individual has previous criminal convictions, he or she will - to a greater or lesser extent - be counselled to mend his or her ways. In keeping with this legal philosophy, a judge will commission pre-sentence reports.

"A social worker will probably sit down with the defendant and go into their behaviour in some depth," says Greenwood. "If they are a first-time offender, the judge will expect the pre-sentence and social reports to cover the individual's approach to life. When all this is done the defendant appears before the judge who bases his jail sentence on the information contained in the report. Ultimately, this lengthy process leads to a more considered sentence than is given under the French fast-track justice."

The fast-track courts, which sit around the clock in each of the 10 towns hosting the World Cup, are effectively ordinary French courts set up specifically to deal with violence. In some cases, the courts sit in the stadiums themselves.

Defence lawyers are provided for at the expense of the French government, but as in the British



English fans in Marseille this week. Do their compatriots who break the law get a fair hearing?

Peter Macdiarmid

system, the defendant has the right to find and, indeed, pay for his own lawyer. Anyone convicted in such courts has a right to appeal.

The idea behind this system was to create an instant deterrent for other would-be troublemakers. For this reason, senior British police officers present in France have been calling on the courts to administer jail sentences. Assistant Chief Constable Tim Hollis of South Yorkshire Police says this would send a "strong message to English fans because we know that they hate being jailed in foreign countries".

It is not that French jails are more brutal than English ones.

They are less crowded and free of archaic practices like slopping out, but, so the rationale goes, troublemakers are simply scared of being in a foreign prison.

Francois Serres, a Parisian criminal lawyer, says the speedy process, limited to simpler cases with maximum five-year jail sentences, have certain disadvantages.

"You have about 10 minutes per case and the court sits until 10pm at night, so you can imagine how frantic the atmosphere is," he says. "The police deal with the evidence and this has problems in itself. A defendant can request a further investigation but this is not automatically granted."

Stephen Jackobi, of Fair Trials Abroad, says that although he has not received any complaints about the fast-track system so far, he expects there will be some.

"Practical problems will occur because the whole thing has been implemented in a hurry and that is a recipe for disaster," he says. "If you are going to get people in court for sentence one or two days after they have committed the offence then there is not going to be enough time to prepare an adequate defence case."

"If the crime is less serious and merits a non-custodial sentence, such as a ban or a fine, then I have less doubt about the adequacy of

this quickie method. If the crime is serious, as these offences evidently are, then we should worry about this type of justice."

Not only would a defence lawyer have little time to familiarise himself with the evidence and prepare the case, but the accused would be restricted in his ability to convey to his lawyer the background and any mitigating circumstances to his actions, a restriction that is further exacerbated by a language barrier.

In fact, Jackobi believes that the fast-track courts are in some way contrary to Article 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which gives an accused per-

son the right to proper legal representation.

"Any person who finds themselves in court in a foreign country should have access to an interpreter," he says. "Not only do they need to convey a case to their lawyer, they need to be able to understand the proceedings of the court."

"The problems will really begin if the sentences handed out are long ones, rather than just a few months. The people who have been jailed so far have, by all accounts, been ringleaders. But what will happen if an innocent bystander gets caught up in riots? Anything could easily happen."

A case of merger in the first degree

OLD LAW firms never die, it seems, they just get engulfed by larger firms, or merge to become twice the size. A number of centuries-old firms have been more than willing recently to be swallowed up in a bid to achieve the much-vaunted ideal of critical mass and added value of management speak.

One well-established firm of City lawyers, Frere Cholmeley Bischoff, which was founded in 1750, has decided to throw in its lot with national firm Eversheds. When the merger takes place on 1 August, the new firm Eversheds and Frere Cholmeley will be the largest in the UK, with 322 partners and 988 fee earners, overtaking Clifford Chance, which has 1023 fee earners in the UK.

Clifford Chance itself is the result of the merger of Clifford Turner and Coward Chance in 1987 to form London's largest firm. How long that ranking will last will depend on how successful Clifford Chance is in putting in place its announcement earlier this year to double the number of its lawyers in Europe. The perception of Clifford Chance and Eversheds is also very different, with the former seen as one of the Big Five City law firms, and the latter sometimes unkindly referred to as a UK McDonald's of the legal profession, but that image has been changed recently with Eversheds getting US chemical giant DuPont as one of its clients after a "beauty parade".

It seems that the urge to merge is irresistible, even at the expense of losing a long-standing name. The 213-year-old Wilde Sapte has just narrowly avoided losing its independence and name now that the merger with Arthur Andersen is off, but it is seeking another merger partner.

Keith James, Eversheds' executive chairman comments: "Merger should not be an end

The trend is for the creation of new legal giants, but is it one that firms will be wise to follow?
By Linda Tsang

itself. It should only take place if it is the best way of developing the firm. For some firms, it may be better to grow organically, particularly those with niche practices. For mergers to succeed the cultures of the two firms must be compatible. They must have similar ambitions. The breakdown of talks between Arthur Andersen and Wilde Sapte illustrates this."

But even the route to the Eversheds/Frere Cholmeley deal - and what will essentially be the demise of 248-year-old Frere Cholmeley - was not a smooth one. The background to the story is the boom period of the 1970s and 1980s, when Frere Cholmeley's debt problems arose from expansion in London and overseas in Barcelona, Berlin, Dubai, Milan and Moscow. In a bid to stem the tide of its lawyers leaving over the last five years, it did what many businesses do - it called in the management consultants, in this case Hodgart Temporal.

Such a move almost always leads to drastic measures, but Hodgart Temporal director Alan Hodgart stresses that three-quarters of his law firm clients do not have to take drastic measures, and in this case the report was that Frere Cholmeley did have viable strategy prospects.

The advice was to focus on four core areas - financial services, media and entertainment, property and eastern

Europe - and having carried out that exercise, the consultants were called back in to advise further on whether or not to merge and with whom.

Eversheds' London managing partner Peter Scott and Frere Cholmeley's managing partner Alan Jenkins met at a dinner last year, and the merger was announced last month. But it is not simply a matter of Eversheds and Frere Cholmeley riding off into the sunset as the UK's legal giant - there has also been a break-away firm from Frere Cholmeley called Forsters which will be based in Mayfair and will have 11 partners and 44 lawyers covering property, private client and corporate/media work. Other partners are leaving to join other firms in the City - Bird & Bird, Osborne Clarke, Denton Halland Field Waterhouse.

That has fuelled speculation as to whether the clients will stay with Frere Cholmeley. It is thought that Elton John, who is a client of Frank Presland (who will be joint senior partner post-merger) will stay, and the firm also has other high profile clients, including Warner Music and McDonalds. The management consultant's advice as to keeping clients is that the merger partners have to make a business case to the client: "If the business logic is there, the business people will see it."

Rumours of other mergers are rife in the City - mergers of law firms with other law firms, and also with firms of accountants. But Hodgart says that although Frere Cholmeley's financial position was "somewhat unique, there are a number of London firms which are already considering merger to reach perceived strategic goals. The problem is that sometimes it makes much more sense for firms to split into two".

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993
Licence Application by
Direct Rail Services Ltd. ("the Applicant")
Company Registration Number: 34020822
Principal address of the Applicant:
B536 Sellafeld
Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1PG
Directors of the Applicant:
Maxwell Joule
Alastair Barclay Thomas
Richard Edward Mrowicki
Brian Watson
Margaret Elizabeth Burns
The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 8 (4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant a light maintenance depot (LMD) licence in respect of LMD activities at Cricklewood Sidings in North London and TMD Carlisle in Cumbria and a network licence (in order to operate the network within the LMD) to the applicant on the grounds that, subject to compliance with all necessary legal requirements, it appears to him to be a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence and to operate the railway asset in question. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed licence should send such representation or objection to:
Michael L. Ricketts
Licensing and Compliance, Passenger Services Group
Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST
not later than 17 July 1998
Dated 19 June 1998 John Swift QC

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COURT: Greenwich Magistrates' Court, 9 Blackheath Road, Greenwich, SE10
HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday 7 July 1998 at 10am
PRESENTER: Old Licence, 424 Dowdman Way, Dornham, Bury
APPLICANT: Keith Deabam
ADDRESS: 27 Westfield Road, Belling, London, W13
TRADE OR CALLING: SUNDRIES & CO
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Justices for the said Division to be held at the place and time shown above for the provisional grant for consumption of the above premises.
DATED: 15 June 1998
RUSNAB & CO
Bourne House, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2DQ
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

RAK PROPERTY LIMITED
RECE LIMITED
COMMUNITIES LIMITED
SUNDRIES INVESTMENTS
In a meeting of the Shareholders held at RAK Property Limited, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF, on 15 June 1998, the following resolutions were passed: (1) That the name of the company be changed from RAK Property Limited to RECE Limited. (2) That the company be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to the above resolutions. (3) That the company be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to the above resolutions. (4) That the company be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to the above resolutions. (5) That the company be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to the above resolutions. (6) That the company be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to the above resolutions. 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NEW FILMS

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Director: Brad Silberling
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan, Dennis Franz
Now that plans for Tim Burton's stab at a Superman film have been indefinitely postponed, it looks like Nicolas Cage will be denied the chance to wear his underpants outside his trousers. For the time being, his role in *City of Angels* will provide some consolation.

Although the picture claims Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* as its progenitor, the real inspiration for the film's pivotal dramatic dilemma lies in a far less prestigious source. When Seth, the angel played by Cage, puzzles over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan), he's following in the footsteps of the Man of Steel, who turned in all that saving-the-world poppycock for Lois Lane in *Superman II*. It always struck me that *Wings of Desire* would have been much more tolerable as a Hollywood tearjerker than a somber European art movie. Accordingly, *City of Angels* is silly in the way that only serious-minded movies can be. The romance between Cage and Ryan is startlingly limp, and it's left to the director, Brad Silberling, to conjure some magic from the chaos of Los Angeles.

DREAM WITH FISHES (18)

Director: Finn Taylor
Starring: David Arquette
Here's a recipe for disaster: Take an uptight suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge, add a junkie with a month to live and a headful of hedonistic fantasies that he's determined to realise on his way to the grave. Give them a few weeks on the road together, stir in a sprinkling of zany supporting characters and leave to simmer until the inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. A movie about two young men learning to live in the shadow of death has no right being witty.

effervescent and adventurous, but *Dream with the Fishes* is all of these things.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

Director: Stephen Kay
Starring: Thomas Jane, Keanu Reeves
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane, who believes that Cassady was a charmer, but portrays him as an egotistical sixth-former. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat Generation clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, maaaaa.

SAVIOR (18)

Director: Peter Antonijevic
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Nastassja Kinski
There are also plenty of unexpected giggles in *Savior*, though given that the film is set in war-torn Bosnia, we should assume that they are mostly unintentional. In a bizarre pre-credits sequence, Dennis Quaid loses his wife (Nastassja Kinski) and son in a Paris bomb blast, then avenges their death by strolling into a mosque and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer. I suspect that the editor dozed off at his Steinbeck, because the next thing you know, Quaid is a hired gun for the Serbs, shaking his head at various atrocities and taking a woman and her newborn daughter under his wing. When he sighs "This war sucks, man," you'd better cherish the line - it's the film's only shot at characterisation or political commentary.

POINT BLANK (15)

Director: John Boorman
Starring: Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Keanu Reeves, James B. Sikking
Re-release of John Boorman's finest film, a chilly and chilling existential thriller with Lee Marvin as the gangster Walker, his soul emptied but his mind full of revenge.

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

Some films are like open-heart surgery. This may not sound like much of a recommendation, but it's essential that you are reminded every so often of cinema's power to singe and burn. *Last Tango in Paris* does both of these things. The twisted, mournful Francis Bacon paintings which flash up during the opening credits provide a hint of what to expect; like Bacon, Bertolucci turns his subjects inside-out. And Marlon Brando inside-out is not a sight for the squeamish. *Prince Charles Cinema, London WC2 (0171-437 8181) 9pm*. There isn't anything terribly original about *Stiff Upper Lips* (above), which takes pot-shots at Merchant/Ivory productions, but its humour is informed by a mixture of savagery and affection which recalls Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*. The jokes come thick and fast, and there are sprightly turns from Prunella Scales and the late Brian Glover. *On general release*



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Theatre Dominic Cavendish

Howard Davies's monumental production of *The Iceman Cometh* transfers from the Almeida to the West End today for a further 44 performances. Eugene O'Neill's tragicomic portrait of a godforsaken saloon bar populated by an added, pipe-dreaming crew could easily be static and overblown. But the four hours fly by thanks to Kevin Spacey's (below) unmissable performance as the turncoat boozier, Hickey. *Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, London SE1 (0171-494 5460) 7pm*. It's almost your last chance to catch Trevor Nunn's masterful account of *Jesus's An Enemy of the People*. Ian McKellen triumphs as the medical officer who turns his beloved spa town against him by pointing out that the waters it depends on for tourism are polluted. He manages to retain our sympathy even as he transforms the character from scatty eccentric to embattled misanthrope, hunted by a baying mob. *Old Vic, National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-452 3000) 7.15pm*



Pop Tim Perry

Bob Dylan (right) and Van Morrison, two genuine legends of rock, kick off a short national tour today. As they're so moody and unpredictable, this pair can often disappoint, but when they rise to the occasion, it can be one of those all-time great nights. Well worth a risk, if only to say that you've seen them. *Botanic Gardens, Belfast (01232 313131) tonight, 7.30pm; Newcastle Arena (0191-401 8000) tomorrow, 7.30pm; Glasgow SECC (0141-287 7777) 21 Jun, 7.30pm*. There are more old people on show at the all-day Ozfest, and for many devotees, this will be the first chance to see the classic Black Sabbath line-up of Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi, Bill Ward and Geezer Butler since 1979. But it won't be a gathering of halting beer-guzzlers as retro metal is back in, and an undercard of the Foo Fighters and Pantera should ensure that the average age of the crowd will be half that of the headliners. *Milton Keynes Bowl (0800-138 8844) tomorrow, gates open 10am*



Comedy James Rampton

Any comedian who names himself after a small village in Lincolnshire is bound to be a little bit different, and *Boothby Graffio* (below) is certainly that. At six foot four and with a booming voice, he wins people over through sheer force of personality. Don't ask him to sum up his stand-up style, though. "I dunno," he reflects. "Maybe I should stick to 'abstract surrealism with a streak of japey', as one critic put it." *Bound and Gagged Palmers Green, The Fox, London N13 (0171-483 3456) 9.15pm*. Phil Jupitus, star of TV's *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, has a similarly charismatic air when he performs live; indeed, he may be the funniest West Ham fan alive. He has been known to devote his entire show to the film *Star Wars*. If you go and see Jupitus, may the comic force be with you. *Banana Cabaret, The Bedford, London SW12 (0181-673 8904) 9pm*



GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)

Two couples - fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into the role of a preacher obsessed with God in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing.

THE BIG SWAP (18)

Drab, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)

Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world as seen through the deranged eyes of young Francis (the astounding Eamonn Owens) is so rich and inspiring that it pulls you into the movie in the manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DAD SAVAGE (18)

Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

DARK CITY (15)

Alex Proyas, director of *The Crows*, returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesia suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by our inspector William Hurt. Sprigs-wielding psychiatrist Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)

Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)

A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

THE GENERAL (15)

John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester at the start of the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the performance of young actress Joanna Ward who sparkles as the film's athletic teenager.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)

An adaptation of Capote's novel about lives and loves in a southern American town in the 1940s. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)

Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of *Live Flesh*. Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

LOLITA (18)

Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

LOVE ETC (15)

The meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

THE MAGNIFICENT ANDERSONS (T)

A welcome re-release for Orson Wells' 1942 near-masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)

This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on a whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hani Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

NOWHERE (18)

One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sado-masochists, druggies, airheads - and, this time around, a few aliens for good measure.

THE REAL BLONDE (15)

Tom DiCillo's prickly satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly fizzy by a game cast, and littered with surprises and witty one-liners.

RED CORNER (15)

Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this chunky piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's "replacement killers".

THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)

Worthy drama boasting a sparkling performance from Simon Callow.

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies.

STAR KID (PG)

Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination.

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The winner of last year's Palme d'Or about an Iranian man who drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - but thanks to naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience.

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)

Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer play sisters who rebel against their father, but their talents are wasted in this drama based on *King Lear*.

TITANIC (12)

Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)

Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of the moosey New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dour father (Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a rascally wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.

CINEMA

WEST END

THE APOSTLE (12)

Barbican Cinema 6pm, 8.40pm
Phoenix Cinema 12.40pm, 6pm
Empire Leicester Square 1.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm, 11.10pm
Screen on the Hill 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
Ritzy Cinema 3.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)

ABC Pantons Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.05pm
Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm, 12.10am
UCI Whiteleys 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

THE BIG SWAP (18)

Piazza 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm
Virgin Haymarket 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
UCI Whiteleys 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Odeon Kensington 7pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am
Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Odeon Marble Arch 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Notting Hill Coronet 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm
Ritzy Cinema 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.35pm
Clapham Picture House 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Warner Village West End 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 3.15pm, 4.10pm, 5.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.15pm, 12.10am
Midnightlight Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
ABC Baker Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

CITIZEN KANE (U)

ABC Pantons Street 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

CONCERTO OF LIFE (18)

(subtitles) Warner Village West End 9pm

DARK CITY (15)

Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Warner Village West End 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.55pm
Odeon Camden Town 10.45pm

DAYS OF BEING WILD (15)

(subtitles) ICA Cinema Mon 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm

DEEP IMPACT (12)

Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm, 11.45pm
Empire Leicester Square 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.20pm
Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 2.25pm, 5.10pm, 8.55pm
UCI Whiteleys 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Virgin Trocadero 12.00pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE FULL MONTY (15)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

THE GENERAL (15)

Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm
Virgin Trocadero 2pm, 4.50pm
Warner Village West End 12.30pm, 6pm
Clapham Picture House 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)

ABC Pantons St 12.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

THE GRASS HARP (PG)

ABC Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

HAPPINESS STREET (16)

(subtitles) Warner Village West End 6.30pm

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

THE ICE STORM (15)

Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.05pm

JACKIE BROWN (15)

Piazza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

KUNDUN (12)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

ABC Piccadilly 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

LIVE FLESH (18)

Richmond Filmhouse 8.45pm
Curzon Minima 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Screen on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Bancroft 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm
Odeon Camden Town 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.20pm
Ritzy Cinema 6.30pm, 11.50pm (+ Short: Magic Moments)

LOLITA (18)

Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm
Virgin Haymarket 8.15pm

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)

Odeon West End 4.05pm, 8.50pm
Virgin Chelsea 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

MA VIE EN ROSE (12)

Ritzy Cinema 2.25pm

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

OSCAR AND LUCINDA (15)

Phoenix Cinema Tue 1pm

POINT BLANK (18)

Ritzy Cinema 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm, 11.40pm (+ Short: Green Monkey)
Gate Notting Hill 1.65pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm, 11.15pm (+ short: Green Monkey)
Screen on the Green 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm, 11.15pm

RED CORNER (15)

Odeon Marble Arch 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11.55pm
Virgin Trocadero 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm
Virgin Fulham Road 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm
UCI Whiteleys 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.25pm
Piazza 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Virgin Trocadero 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.40pm
UCI Whiteleys 4.30pm, 9.45pm

SAVIOR (18)

Virgin Haymarket 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Virgin Fulham Road 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.35pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN 2 (18)

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo
Whaley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00
Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat.
6.00 Pete Tong's Essential
Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00
Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show.
2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00
- 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Debbie Thorne. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Hubert
Gregg. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music
Night. 9.45 Cococherry. 9.50
Listen to the Band. 10.00 David
Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley.
12.05 Chris Nova. 4.00 -
6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Beethoven.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Archive.
4.00 Music Restored.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from
St David's Hall, Cardiff. Conductor
Mark Wigglesworth. Joan Rodgers
(soprano), Neal Davies (bass).
Messiah: Et exspecto
resurrectionem mortuorum.

7.55 Hour of Dread and
Happiness. Even when traditional
beliefs in an afterlife have been
abandoned, the prospect of
immortality and transformation
continues to intrigue. Alan Walker
investigates.
8.45 Concert, part 2. Shostakovich:
Symphony No 14.
9.35 Postscript. Christopher Cook
talks to five of Hollywood's most
successful screenwriters. S: Gus
Van Sant, the writer and director of
'My Own Private Idaho', 'Drugstore
Cowboy' and 'To Die For'. (R)
10.00 Hear and Now. Verity Sharp

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PICK OF THE DAY

ALL THOSE child-like questions
that one dares not ask as an
adult are answered by Geoffrey
Palmer (right) in What's in a
Name? (11am R4FM), such
as why is a silverfish not a
fish, and why is there a barnacle
called a goose? A more grown-up
programme is Hear and Now at
the London Musicians Collective's
Festival of Experimental
Music (10pm R3), featuring the
fantastically hypnotic minimalist

composer-pianist, Charlemagne
Palestine, who performs for the
first time in 25 years, alongside
the jazzy improvisations of San
Francisco's ROVA sax quartet.
Today's Afternoon Play (2.15pm
R4FM) is Dave Simpson's men-
acing Fair Game, which tells the
story of an office leech who lures
a female colleague away to a
weekend conference, with dire
consequences.
FIONA STURGES



Introduces highlights from the
London Musicians Collective's
Festival of Experimental Music -
recorded at London's South Bank
Centre in May - and focuses on
American artists rarely seen in this
country. New York minimalist
composer Charlemagne Palestine
plays his densely patterned piano
music, the ROVA sax quartet from
San Francisco play virtuosic
compositions and improvise, and
composer Pauline Oliveros
presents her meditative, drone-
based electronic 'Deep Listening'
music. See Pick of the Day.
11.30 The Beat of My Heart.
12.00 Composer of the
Week: Ives. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

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1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

11.30 The Beat of My Heart.
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3.45 Windrush - Talking Heads.
4.00 NEWS; Open Book.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
6.30 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 In the Chair.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.35 Front Row. Mark Lawson
meets writers who remember
childhood pen pals.
7.45 Under One Roof. Stairway to
Heaven. By Michele Hanson and
Jenny Landroth, based on Michele
Hanson's articles. With Paola
Dionisotti and Edna Dora. Director
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10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Master
George. Beryl Bainbridge's latest
novel is abridged by Pauline
Wallis. "November 1954 - Smile,
Boys, Smile". Read by Richard
Griffiths (10/10).

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